



78 JOBS SAVED IN RESCUE DEAL

Report by Simon Penfold

A RESCUE deal has saved the jobs of 78 Black Country workers at a firm run by five generations of a local family.

H&E Knowles (Lye), which has factories in Quarry Bank and Cradley, collapsed into administration but a deal has now been struck to sell the business to two family members.

Administrators from the restructuring services division of Mazars, the international professional services firm, secured the sale to Peter and Daniel Knowles, who have created a new business, H&E Knowles (Manufacturing).

They have purchased 'certain parts of the business and assets' from the administrators, saving all of the jobs for the 78-strong workforce.

Daniel Knowles said: "We are deeply saddened at the demise of our old family business, both for ourselves and our long standing suppliers."

"We have tried hard to save the jobs of the entire workforce. We are now looking forward to working together with the existing customers and suppliers to build a better future."

Set up nearly a century ago, H&E Knowles manufactured a wide range of products including gardenware such as wheelbarrows, greenhouses, storage units and incinerators.

Struggling

It has factories in Talbots Lane, Quarry Bank, and at the Waterfall Lane trading estate in Cradley Heath.

It has remained under the control of the founding family for nearly a century. But recently the business had been struggling financially after some large investments it made became too costly.

The company's most recently filed accounts, for the year to the end of January 2015, show that despite a turnover of £6.7 million it made a pre-tax profit of just £54,000.

The business invested heavily in 2015 in premises and machinery, but it was unable to benefit from that investment and has since incurred losses.

Simon Chandler and Scott Bevan of Mazars were appointed joint administrators on November 30 and secured the sale to the new venture owned by Peter and Daniel Knowles.

Mr Chandler said: The sale of the business preserves and protects 78 employees."

RAISE A GLASS TO BOYS ON THE FA CUP TRAIL



Stourbridge FC celebrate in the dressing room after their historic victory over Northampton in Tuesday night's cup match

DELIGHTED Stourbridge boss Gary Hackett hailed the greatest night in his managerial career and took aim at the BBC after Stourbridge made history by knocking Northampton Town out of the FA Cup.

Jack Duggan's 86th minute winner sealed the shock of this season's competition so far and sent the Glassboys, the lowest-ranked team left, through to the third round for the first time at the expense of the Cobblers, who play four divisions above them in League One.

Hackett's men will now head to League Two Wycombe Wanderers on Saturday,

January 7 and while reflecting on a night of triumph at the War Memorial Ground, the manager made reference to the fact that Tuesday night's tie was ignored by television.

"It is just one of those really fabulous nights," said the delighted Hackett.

"We have created a major upset. I always strongly believed we would do it. The support we had. Everything about the occasion."

"Maybe the BBC should have a look at us. They have ignored us permanently over a long period of time."

"They didn't think we could beat North-

ampton but the better side won. They (the BBC) didn't believe we could do it. They should have been down here. We are the lowest-ranked team in the competition and we have been ignored."

"We have done it. We are in the third round. It is an amazing occasion. We will probably take 1,000 to 1,500 fans to Wycombe. It will be a big day."

Duggan's goal earned the Glassboys a deserved win after they had enjoyed the best of the chances in front of a crowd of 2,520.

● Dynamite Duggan-Page 40

ACCIDENT

Grandfather dies after being hit by car

A GRANDFATHER died after he was hit by a car on a busy road in Dudley.

Arthur Fletcher, aged 65, was treated at the scene following the accident in Priory Road but later died in hospital.

It comes little over a month since a teenage girl was killed in a crash on the same road.

Police officers spoke to the driver of a red Nissan Juke following Saturday's crash and are now investigating. No arrests have been made. In a heartfelt tribute, Mr Fletcher's family described him as a 'loving husband, father and grandfather'.

MAIL

Mayor gives thanks to postal workers

THE Mayor of Dudley has thanked local postmen and women for their hard work during the festive period.

Christmas is the Royal Mail's busiest period and has this year celebrated its 500th anniversary, marking half a millennium of delivering Christmas cards and parcels.

Councillor Mohammed Hanif visited the Dudley delivery office to see first-hand the operation of delivering Christmas post and to pass on season's greeting to its hardworking staff.

MANHUNT

Police still looking for murder suspect

POLICE are still searching for a man wanted in connection with the murder of a 24-year-old in Brierley Hill.

Mansoor Mahmood died from stab wounds after he was attacked in the High Street a month ago. He was found on October 15 at 4.45pm.

Following his death, police launched an appeal to find a 'key suspect' in the case - 19-year-old Niron Parker-Lee from Brierley Hill, who is described as dangerous. Detective Inspector Harry Harrison said: "It's important we locate Niron Parker-Lee as soon as possible and I would urge anyone with information to contact us."

INSIDE

DESPERATELY SEEKING SANTA?



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Killer dies on anniversary of murder



Paul Abbott – died in jail

A HUSBAND who bludgeoned his wife to death in their Netherton home has been found dead in prison – on the first anniversary of her murder.

Paul Abbott was jailed for life with a 15-year minimum term earlier this year after he admitted murdering his wife Jackie.

The brutal attack saw him strike her at least 16 times with a hammer while chasing her around their home in Netherton on December 11 last year.

Prison chiefs have said Abbott was found dead in a Worcestershire jail on Sunday, one year to the day that he had killed his wife of 28 years.

The 57-year-old was jailed at Wolverhampton Crown Court in July, after admitting murder.

On Tuesday a Prison Service spokesman confirmed Abbott's death and said an independent probe into the circumstances is under way.

Investigation

The spokesman said: "HMP Long Lartin prisoner Paul Abbott died in custody on Sunday, December 11. As with all deaths in custody there will be an independent investigation by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman."

The court heard about Abbott's gambling, jealousy and controlling behaviour. It emerged his wife had also been the victim of 'sporadic' violence from him, culminating in the frenzied attack which killed her at their home in Lodge Crescent.

Gambling losses and a row over tickets to an Elvis tribute act sparked the ferocious assault on his wife.

The couple ran a business in Brierley Hill selling fishing, darts and snooker equipment with their two sons.

It was the sons who found their 54-year-old mother's bloodstained body in the back garden of the family home.

Monks forgive father – island's first criminal

A TOURIST from Dudley who became the first convicted criminal on a holy island off the Welsh coast has walked free from court – after apologising to the monks for disturbing their peace.

The 45-year-old father, who was visiting Caldey Island, a boat ride from the resort town Tenby, admitted assaulting his 'naughty' seven-year-old son during a day trip to a chocolate factory run by the brothers.

It was the first conviction in living memory on the island, which has a population 40. The father, who cannot be named for legal reasons, appeared in court at Haverfordwest to confess lifting his son off the ground by the scruff of the neck, slapping him and frogmarching him away.

The man was handed a £200 fine and a community order after the court heard he was 'very sorry' for the offence.

Police were called to the island, which is home to an order of monks who follow a vow of silence, after the incident was reported. Officers had to be carried by RNLI lifeboat the two miles to the island off the Pembrokeshire coast to make the arrest.

More than 3,000 visitors make trip from April to October to visit the island where Cistercian monks make chocolate, shortbread and perfume.

Range

Prosecutor Vaughan Pritchard-Jones told the court that the child, diagnosed with ADHD and autism, had been 'quite naughty' on the day in question but the father's actions went beyond 'reasonable chastisement'. "He picked him up by the neck so he could look him in the eye and tell him off. He appears to have been in quite a rage," he said.

He later broke down during a police interview and stated he would never hurt his son. Defending lawyer Mike Kelleher said his client apologised for his offence and accepted he may have 'gone too far'.

He added: "As a result of this incident, the help and assistance that this family has been asking for for a very long time, has suddenly come into place."

Magistrates imposed an 18 month community order, £200 fine, £85 court costs and £85 victim surcharge.

Raiders hit support centre again



Peter Scott items that were ruined when raiders vandalised and stole from the support centre in Stourbridge

THIEVES returned to steal another vehicle from a Stourbridge centre that supports people with learning disabilities – just days after raiders went on a wrecking spree and stole two cars.

Burglars targeted Pinnacle Supports in Hayes Lane on December 3, stealing two cars – one was involved in an accident and the other also dumped later – and computers,

Christmas presents and money raised for charity.

Just two days later, on the Monday afternoon, they were targeted again when a wheelchair accessible car was stolen from the centre compound on the site at about 5pm.

Company director Peter Scott, from Halesowen, said: "These people are evil. The car stolen was another wheelchair accommodating

vehicle. This just makes it even harder for us after the break-in on Saturday.

"We had 11 cars in total and now we have eight. The car stolen cost £14,000.

"We are taking cars off site but it is a real danger now that they could strike again.

"We are stretched to our absolute limit now."

Inquest has opened on fatal factory tank explosion

AN INQUEST has opened into the death of a Pensnett man after a storage tank that had contained methanol exploded at a factory.

Raymond Wyman was working at KTC Edibles Limited, in Heath Road, Wednesbury, when the explosion happened on October 31.

Mr Wyman had been on top of the four metre tank, which was used by former site owners Caparo to store methanol, Black Country Coroners Court heard.

He had been using a cutting torch. The inquest heard that the torch was believed to have ignited methanol, causing the explosion.

Mr Wyman was taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham but died on November 8.

Detective Sergeant Rob Bastin, of West Midlands Police, said: "It was a large warehouse that used to be owned by Caparo. It then went into receivership and KTC Edibles Limited bought it in order to store food stuff.

"KTC employed two contractors to do building work including NKD Machinery Limited. At the time Mr Wyman was self-employed but was employed by the owners of NKD to do ad-hoc labour work."

Amanda James, from the Health and Safety Executive construction division, confirmed the tank had contained methanol.

The inquest was adjourned until January 31 by Senior Coroner Zafar Siddique and he urged representatives of both companies to attend.

Motorist in court after collision

A MAN from Dudley has been charged in connection with a two-car crash that injured three people, including a six-year-old girl.

Harry Allen, aged 51, of Stanhope Street, was charged with driving a motor vehicle with an alcohol level above the drink-drive limit and was bailed to appear at Kidderminster Magistrates Court on Tuesday, December 20.

The collision took place on Egghill Lane, Frankley, on Sunday, December 4, at around 8.40pm, involving a blue Jaguar X Type and a black Vauxhall Corsa.

West Midlands Ambulance Service arrived to find one of the cars in a ditch. The girl had suffered a chest injury, a blow to the head and wrist pain. A man and a woman sustained cuts.

Anyone with information is asked to call police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Carnival appeal

ORGANISERS of the annual Halesowen Carnival are looking for businesses to sponsor the 2017 event at Highfield Park on July 1. Sponsorship is needed for the stage, carnival king and queen competition and dog show. E-mail hale.sovencarnival@gmail.com

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Staff threatened by shop raiders

A GANG of robbers armed with a knife and a baseball bat threatened staff and demanded cash during a raid at a village supermarket.

Three men threatened staff and customers at the Co-op store in Kinner High Street just before 10pm on Thursday night.

Police say the staff were left 'shaken' following the ordeal, in which cash and cigarettes were taken but no one was injured.

The raiders were wearing balaclavas or hoods. Anyone with information should call police on 101.

Business booming at Co-op Travel

A TRAVEL agent with branches across the Black Country has seen its sales rise by nearly a fifth.

The Midlands Co-operative Travel expects its revenue to top £335 million, up from £75m just five years ago, after seeing its sales increase by 17 per cent in the last year.

The company operates 56 high street branches, has more than 150 home-based travel consultants and 39 independent agents selling their travel products. It has branches in Dudley, Wall Heath, Kingswinford, Sedgley, Stourbridge and Halesowen.

Man is charged after car hits wall

A 25-year-old Wombourne man has been charged with drink-driving after his car hit a wall in Stourbridge.

The incident happened on Hagley Road in Oldswinford at 11.20pm on Thursday.

Images from the scene show that a blue Jaguar was badly damaged.

Thomas Shakespeare, of Miller Lane, has been charged in relation to the incident and is due to appear at Dudley magistrates' court on December 23

Deep Purple announce Birmingham tour date

ROCK legends Deep Purple have announced a tour which includes a concert at Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena.

The Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame band's current lineup is Ian Gillan, Roger Glover, Ian Paice, Steve Morse and Don Airey, who release a new album, Infinite, in early 2017. The Long Goodbye Tour will stop off at Brum on November 17 2017. Tickets start at £56.49 available via 0844 33 88 222 or www.theticketfactory.com

Roadwork traffic lights

MOTORISTS can expect delays due to temporary traffic lights while maintenance work takes place on a busy road in Brierley Hill.

The signals will be in place until next Friday, December 23, while the work is being carried out on Moor Street.

Loner hit his pal on head with rack when drunk

A 53-year-old Halesowen man who smashed a wooden magazine rack over the head of a friend in a drunken argument has been spared an immediate jail term but will have to keep to a 12-week curfew.

Judge Simon Ward ruled that Kevin Sweeney would have to remain indoors between the hours of 8pm and 8am.

Sweeney had been drinking with Vincent Homer at Mr Homer's home when they began to row over a hi-fi system, said Mr David Iles, prosecuting, at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Sweeney first threw a number of items off a coffee table before picking up the magazine rack and striking his host on the head.

Mr Homer had to be taken to hospital where two wounds were stitched.

In a victim statement, Mr Homer told police he continued to feel angry and upset over the actions of his friend, which had left him with permanent scars on his head.

Sweeney, of Halesowen Road, admitted wounding and was given a 12-month jail term suspended for 18 months by the judge, who said he accepted that Sweeney had acted 'out of character'.

Judge Ward added: "The curfew will stop you going out and getting drunk."

Mr Simon Hanns defending, said it was a 'very sad case' involving men who had been friends for a considerable time. About Sweeney, he added: "He is effectively a loner so friends are very dear to him."

Temporary camp bid for travellers

A 'HOLDING' park for travellers could be set up to help a council tackle the problem of illegal camps in the Black Country.

Tipton is being considered for the transit site for caravans along with the Black Patch area of Smethwick and Oldbury.

The idea comes after Sandwell Council saw a 20 per cent rise in traveller camps, which has cost £250,000 this year alone in clean up and legal bills after sites were invaded. It would mean the council could bring new police powers into force enabling it to move on travellers within 24 hours, like neighbouring Walsall can.

Smethwick's Councillor Richard Marshall said: "We are looking at various sites across the borough. There has been an increase in travellers across the borough over the past 12 months and it has cost the taxpayer a hell of a lot of money."

Storage depot use

AN INDUSTRIAL building is being exchanged in Stourbridge as a storage and distribution depot. A change of use application has been submitted for Vulcan Works on Hayes Lane.

Surgery is improving, says watchdog

A DOCTORS' surgery in Brierley Hill has been told it still needs improvements despite battling its way out of special measures.

The Waterfront Surgery, at Brierley Hill Health and Social Care Centre, which has more than 8,300 registered patients, was put in special measures last year.

It was told to review the process for managing medicines that were no longer in use and out of date. An inspection last year found the medical centre in Venture Way was breaching Good Governance and Cleanliness and Infection Control regulations.

Officers from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) returned to the medical centre on September 6 this year to find the surgery had successfully followed

its plan to meet the legal requirements. It has since been removed from special measures.

After its most recent visit on December 1, the surgery was told it still needed to see improvements.

Dementia

The practice requires improvement for 'providing effective and caring services older people, people with long term conditions, families, children and young people, working age people, vulnerable people and people with mental health', says the report.

A total of 76 per cent of patients diagnosed with dementia had their care reviewed in face to face meetings in the last 12 months – but that figure was lower than the national average of 84 per cent.

Pervert church-goer is caught by the FBI

THE FBI helped snare a Black Country church-goer who made hundreds of indecent images of children.

Andrew Day, aged 37, was found to have made 189 indecent images of children, 39 of which were in the worst category, and 213 moving images, of which 133 were in the worst category, between 2006 and 2015.

Having taken the pictures the Halesowen man posted many to a Russian website visited by paedophiles but his offences were eventually brought to an end after FBI investigators in the US found the images online and contacted the National Crime Agency.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that Day had taken photos up the skirts of young girls without them knowing. He had also stolen underwear belonging to girls and women.

Day was jailed for two years having pleaded guilty to six charges of taking indecent images of children, another of committing an act outraging public decency and a further three counts of theft.

Prosecuting, Mr Gary Cook, said Day had posted a total of eight albums of images to the Russian website. He said: "US intelligence agencies oversee websites around the world, including those people who have a sexual interest in children visit. This was one of them."

Raided

The Americans liaised with police in the UK and Day's home in Olive Lane was raided by officers. They seized two mobile phones, a tablet computer, a hard-drive, a flash-drive and items of underwear with notes on who had owned them. They found a picture of a woman from whom he had stolen underwear.

Defending, Mr John Lucas, said the case was 'odd' in that Day had posted the images online for his 'personal pleasure.'

He added: "The benefit in posting these images would seem to me to be the defendants and the defendants alone. Perhaps it was the 'shock factor' in putting them on the internet which somehow gave him that pleasure."

Judge Marcus Tregilgas-Davey said he accepted they had not been posted for profit but considered it to be distribution of the images.

He also imposed a prevention order on Day, who had no previous convictions, which prohibits him from engaging with children and other vulnerable people for a period of 10 years.

Megan is 1,000th research patient



Halesowen College student Megan Wood, of Quarry Bank, has been cared for by the hospital since she was two

A TEENAGER from the Black Country has become the 1,000th patient recruited at Birmingham Children's Hospital for a project that aims to transform the diagnosis and treatment of rare diseases and cancer.

The recruitment of Megan Wood, aged 18, from Quarry Bank, to the 100,000 Genomes Project signalled the milestone for the dedicated team at the leading paediatric hospital. The initiative, the first of its type in the world, is working to decode complete sets of

genetic information to help scientists and doctors understand more about specific conditions.

Megan has been cared for by the hospital since she was two, when she was diagnosed with systemic onset juvenile idiopathic arthritis and, later, interstitial lung disease. She hopes that taking part in the project could help with more targeted treatment for both herself and others.

Megan, who attends Halesowen College, said: "It can be really frustrating at times because my

condition can mean I can't do everyday things. I'm hoping by taking part it might lead to more of an explanation on what causes the problems."

Dr Larissa Kerecuk, clinical lead for rare diseases at Birmingham Children's Hospital, said: "Our team work tirelessly to promote the exciting initiative that could potentially transform healthcare in years to come. We'd like to say a huge thank-you to Megan and all of our patients that have agreed to take part."

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WEATHER-forecasting terms. Remind me again. Are dribs and drabs wetter than spits and spots?

THE Government's £10 Christmas bonus arrived in 1.2 million bank accounts this week. If this piffing handout, unchanged since 1972, were scrapped I bet 99 per cent of recipients would not even notice. Yet it would free up tens of millions of pounds which could be spent on nurses and carers for those who really need help. All it takes is political will.

BANK of England governor Mark Carney says millions of jobs could be lost as a result of automation and robots. This news is greeted as a nightmare. Which is odd because the last time it came around, it was regarded as a dream. In the 1930s, automation promised an end to mankind's drudgery. Columnist, Phil Hickman, once told me the dream of the pre-war years was that people would have to work only a few hours per week "and we'd spend the rest of our time writing poetry and making mandolins and suchlike." It never happened.



The Second World War came along and kept everybody busy for six years. The following decades were spent recovering. Today the prospect of jobs being taken by machines fills us with dread. But why? I bet the answer is that the jobs we do today, mostly in warm, clean offices, are far removed from the dirty, back-breaking labour of yore. Work gives us status and colleagues. We don't want it to end. If the age of the robots is coming, we will have to make them our servants, not our masters, and find new ways of keeping ourselves occupied. Anybody want a mandolin?

THIS is hardly a scientific survey but our local corner shop sold 40 books of stamps in a single day, which is apparently outstanding even for the time of year. Could it be that Christmas cards are regaining lost ground? Surely it was only a matter of time before people realised that a multiple-address Xmas email doesn't really hit the spot.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Trust extends nurse recruitment search

BOSSSES of a Dudley hospital are extending its international recruitment programme to nurses who qualified overseas but are living in the UK.

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust is offering band two contracts and a bespoke training package to help such recruits obtain the final stages of their registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

By David Cosgrove

Hospital bosses said applicants need to have passed their international English test and have an active registration PIN in their own country.

Head of non-medical education, Carol Love-Mecrow, said: "Candidates who complete our training programme successfully are guaranteed a full-time band five post. In return, they need to commit to staying with the trust for 12 months."

Chiefs said the trust is doing all it can to recruit against the backdrop of a national shortage of nurses and midwives. It holds regular recruitment days, is encouraging former and retired health professional to return to practice and is exploring further recruitment from EU countries.

"We are committed to investing in the local community and recognise that there is a rich pool of talent that has gone untapped," said Mrs Love-Mecrow. "We would be delighted to welcome foreign nurses living in the UK."

The job advert went live on November 21 and the trust has already received 12 applications from nurses who meet the required level of qualifications.

Mrs Love-Mecrow added: "Our advert will stay live on NHS Jobs until December 20 - but we do reserve the right to close the vacancy prior to the advertised date."

Nurses interested in working for the Dudley Group should go to the NHS Jobs website and search for 'International Registered Nurses (with IELTS Programme)' - job reference 253-A-16-25030.

The Dudley Group is one of the top performing trusts in the country. However, bosses have struggled to fill shifts at Russells Hall Hospital in recent months.

Dr Paul Harrison, acting chief executive at the trust, said: "We have robust escalation systems to manage these situations and patient safety was maintained."

Julie to help Air Ambulance



Smethwick raised actress Julie Walters has new charity role

SIX-TIME Bafta and Golden Globe award-winning actress Julie Walters has become an ambassador to the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity.

Julie, who hails from Smethwick, will help raise awareness of the charity's lifesaving work in its 25th anniversary year.

She will join a host of stars from the worlds of sport and entertainment who have agreed to become ambassadors, including former Top Gear presenter Richard Hammond, ex-F1 racing drivers David Coulthard and Nigel Mansell.

Ambassadors also include Harry Potter actor James Phelps who, as one of the Weasley twins, played one of Miss Walters' sons on screen.

She has a particular affinity for the lifesaving work of the charity because, as well as being a Midlander, before her glittering career as an actress she was a nurse at Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

She said: "I am absolutely delighted to support and help raise awareness of the lifesaving work of the Midlands Air Ambulance charity in its 25th anniversary year as part of #AIR25."

Poorest will have to pay more tax

THE poorest families across Dudley borough will have to pay more council tax after cost-cutting moves were approved.

Struggling families currently only have to pay 20 per cent of their total council tax bill under a relief scheme. But they will have to find extra cash as the amount they have to pay goes up two per cent from April 1 next year.

Councillor David Sparks, cabinet member for finance and legal services at Dudley Council, said it was a cut that had been 'forced' upon the council by the Government.

The move was approved by councillors at full council meeting last week and is expected to save the authority £150,000 in a year.

Reduced

Councillor Sparks said: "The council tax reduction scheme will go up in Dudley. This is because when the Government in 2013 transferred the payments of housing benefits through the local authorities they reduced by ten per cent the amount of money we had to plan these benefits. Council tax payers in Dudley have been subsidising this funding gap for several years."

"This Government is reducing the ability of Dudley to meet its funding gap and forcing us to make cuts and increase council tax."

Next year's council tax has yet to be set.

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Queen Square, Wolverhampton, around



Dudley Zoo's bear pit and viewing platform in 1930



Waiting anxiously for news after the Hamstead pit disaster 1908



A bustling Dudley Street, Wolverhampton, around 1900



Smethwick's Chance Glassworks around 1920

Chronicling the birth of the Black Country

BLASTS of hot air billowed from furnaces while the streets rang out with the pounding of great steam hammers and the shriek of whistling boilers.

This was the Black Country at the height of Victoria's reign and beyond as the rapid rise in manufacturing exploded across the face of England.

Between 1820 and 1914, Britain was transformed on a scale unprecedented in its history. By the start of the First World War, it was a staggeringly wealthy country.

A century earlier, England was a very different place, with little over a third of its population living in towns and cities. By the outbreak of war, industrialisation had seen that number soar to almost 80 per cent. A new book, *The Lost Country*, has recorded the changing face of England over six tumultuous decades from 1870 to 1930 in images from national archives.

A crowded Dudley Street in Wolverhampton taken around 1900 shows a

MEMORY LANE

By Marion Brennan

prosperous town with shops offering factory-produced consumer items. Freeman Hardy & Willis, on the right of the picture, was opening its chain of shoe shops at the time.

A horse and carriage stands outside the 16th century Star & Garter Hotel in Victoria Street where Charles I allegedly took shelter on the march to Edge Hill, hence the 'Royal' reference. The historic inn was sold and demolished in 1904.

A picture of Queen Square with St Peter's church in the background shows a woman pushing a pram as she walks through a bustling market place. The book also features an image of the zoo's bear pit and viewing platform, which were considered innovative and modernist for the time.

Workers are seen at machines in two pictures taken inside the Beans factory, Dudley. In 1907 George Bean became chairman of the company which had been founded by Absalom

Harper in 1822. Originally a supplier of car parts, during the Great War the company made aero engines, shrapnel and shell cases for the Government. After the war, the firm manufactured the Bean Motor Car.

A photograph taken around 1920 shows Chance Glassworks in Spon Lane South, Smethwick, which produced the window glass for the Houses of Parliament.

In darker scene, an image captures families at the pithead of Hamstead Colliery, Great Barr, in 1908, as they waited for news of victims of a mining disaster. The deep veins of coal were mined with some risk, as was proven when a fire broke out underground and 26 men died from inhaling poisonous fumes.

One of the earliest photos features Bilston Town Hall in Lichfield Street in around 1880. The building reflected the growth of the status of the town from a village on the outskirts of Wolverhampton to a burgeoning coal mining area and later a centre for steel production.

* *Lost England*, price £45, by Philip Davies is published by Atlantic.



Bilston Town Hall, Lichfield Street, circa 1880



Young boys working at the die shop at Beans, Dudley, 1915

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FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL

IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Puncture? It wheely should not be so hard

I SUPPOSE it was inevitable, following last week's rant about the disruption caused by pothole repairs, that I would immediately come a cropper by driving over one.

So it came as no surprise that two days later I had a puncture caused by a big pothole in a country lane just around the corner from the roadworks in Seisdon I had been complaining about.

Changing a wheel in the pitch black and driving rain is never pleasant, and it did feel as if this normally quiet road suddenly became a magnet for most of the traffic in Staffordshire.

And why do modern car manufacturers make everything so complicated? At home, I have got a 40-year-old car, with the spare wheel held in place by a nut and bolt. However, in the new car, the spare is held in place by some crane-like contraption featuring a spring-loaded cable and a set of instructions resembling Egyptian hieroglyphics.

Was there really anything wrong with a nut and bolt? If it is a struggle for me, how hard must it be for a distressed old-age pensioner?

And then we come to the wheel-brace. Again, in the not-too-distant past, a wheel-brace was a simple bar with a spanner on the end. Then there are the telescopic ones, which give you a bit more leverage, and that is fine. But this is the first time I have ever seen a self-assembly wheel-brace, in two parts, with yet more unintelligible instructions. Doesn't it say something about the modern world when even a wheel-brace needs assembly instructions?

While struggling to work all this out, a very nice chap called Steve Beard stopped to help. He too was bamboozled by the spare wheel crane, but after a lot of patient studying, he worked it out and the spare was liberated.

The experience taught me a lot about my fellow road users; some also offered to help, others impatiently tweaked their horns. One even complained that Steve's headlights were too bright.

It also taught me that in the quest for ever-greater sophistication, sometimes we solve a problem that never actually existed in the first place.

□ □ □

WHILE I love to hear from readers, it was with great sadness that I read the letter from a gentleman in Stourbridge whose wife had her purse stolen at the check-out of a well-known retailer.

He points out that the thief was clearly caught on CCTV, but nobody was monitoring it.

I can only say that it is very sad that such things go on in our community, and I hope the footage was handed over to police. And if the police are unable to identify the offender, please email me a picture. I'm sure one of our readers might be able to help.



Arun Barua, aged four, gets an early gift at Old Square, Walsall



Santa at Birches Valley Forest Centre, on Cannock Chase



Sleigh boat to China? Well not quite, it's Dudley Caverns

You'd better watch out, Santa's in town

As the momentum gathers for the big Christmas Countdown, **TOM OAKLEY** looks at where we'll find Santa this year

HO! HO! HO! The countdown to Christmas has started which means Father Christmas is busy getting gifts ready for all the boys and girls on his 'nice' list.

Despite this, Santa always makes time in his busy schedule to visit these same children.

You know how the song goes: He sees you when you're sleeping, he knows when you're awake...

And thankfully he's also conveniently located his grottos across the West Midlands this festive season, so there are plenty of opportunities for you to see the man himself.

In the Black Country, the Dudley Caverns offer something a bit different with their grotto underground. Children are invited to travel by boat along an illuminated journey to see Santa and his elves. There will be carols, hot drinks, mince pies and seasonal entertainment. For details visit www.dudleycanaltrust.org.uk.

Ranging

Elsewhere in the town, families are invited to visit Santa in his grotto set within the Dudley Zoological Gardens. It is open every day up to Christmas from 10am until 3.30pm with prices ranging from £4.50 for children's tickets to £8 for adults.

The Black Country Living Museum is hosting Santa hunts. In Stourbridge, the Bonded Warehouse is offering a boat ride down the canal before visiting Santa's Grotto in the warehouse.

Trips will run on December 17, 18 and 22, with tickets available to book by contacting Heidi Barratt on 01384 395216.

With an allocated time slot to see Santa at the West Midlands Safari Park, you will be greeted by one of his helpful Elves who will



The Bonded Warehouse is all set for their Santa boat trips. Pictured as Santa is David Caunt

show you to the sleigh where you will be magically transported to the North Pole.

While Santa's Grotto is a decorated log cabin with its own Christmas tree, festive fireplace and of course a seat next to Santa himself. It is open everyday up to and including Christmas Eve, with tickets ranging from £5 to £21.

More information is available by visiting www.wmsp.co.uk/santa-safari/

At Sandwell Park Farm you can visit Santa in his grotto, receive a gift and write him a letter as part of Sandwell Council's Christmas in the Valley celebrations.

You will also be given the chance to meet his reindeer and other animals at the farm.

Christmas in the Valley runs until December 24 with extra activities scheduled for weekends.

Sandwell Council's cabinet member for leisure Councillor Richard Marshall said: "This is our first Christmas at the Valley event and

we want to make it a great one for kids and families."

Book online at www.sandwell.gov.uk.

In West Bromwich, a grotto will be at New Square Shopping Centre until Christmas Eve. Entry to the grotto is £5 including a gift from Father Christmas.

Old Square Shopping Centre in Walsall also has a grotto open until Christmas Eve. Opening times are subject to change and residents are asked to keep an eye on the centre's Facebook page.

Continuing his tour of the West Midlands, Santa will also visit Cadbury World to spread chocolate, gifts and Christmas cheer.

The chocolatiers will be working as hard as elves to create a Christmas chocolate masterpiece - last year they made a 3.5ft chocolate Santa.

Visit cadburyworld.co.uk/whats-on/winter for more information on dates and times.



Christmas chocolates at Cadbury World



Visiting Santa at West Midland Safari Park

While he is in Birmingham Santa will also visit the grotto at the Bullring Shopping Centre.

In Staffordshire, people are being urged to bring their family along to Santa's Grotto at Birches Valley.

The Grotto is housed in a beautiful log cabin and set in the picturesque surroundings of Cannock Chase.

Santa's real reindeer can be found close by, grazing in their forest enclosure.

All children who visit Santa will receive their very own real Christmas tree sapling to take home and plant, plus a small gift.

Tickets cost £10 per child and adults have free entry to the Grotto with a paying child.

Children under one-year-old with a paying sibling can go in for free as long as they don't want a gift.

The grotto is open this weekend and next but is closed during the week.



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New £5 note tallow fear is so shallow

I FIND it ridiculous, that the Bank of England is changing the polymer used in the new £5 notes, because of veggie and religious activists.

The Bank of England has said that the amount of tallow in a new £5 note is an extremely small amount, and if one 'does the math', the amount of tallow in a new £5 note is minuscule.

According to the Bank of England, a new £5 note weighs 0.7 grams. The bank said there was a trace of tallow in the new £5 note. A trace chemically means, less than 100 micrograms per gram, or 0.0001 per cent.

A new £5 note weighs 0.7g, therefore there is less than 0.00007 grams or 70 micrograms or 15,000th of a gram of tallow present in one new fiver.

Even £75,000 worth of new £5 notes would only weigh one gram.

The vegan and vegetarian zealots could breathe in more tallow passing a chip shop.

Also, if you consider, there are now 440 million new £5 notes in circulation. To work out how much tallow will be used in total, in all of these fivers we need to multiply 0.00007grams by 440 million which gives us 30,800g, or

31kg. Therefore, if you get about 40kg of tallow-worthy fat from the average cow, how many cows would you need to make every single new £5 note in circulation?

So, the Bank of England's contractor is bending over backwards, when at present it's only slaughtered some three quarters of a cow, for 440 million new £5 notes.

I wish some people these days get a grip, and not panic all the time over the least thing.

JOE EGGINTON
Wolverhampton

EU saga could spark a civil war

WITH regards to the referendum vote it seems that some people, mainly MPs and people with plenty of money, didn't understand the wording on the ballot paper 'in' or 'out'?

They seem to think 'out' means shake it all about till it suits them.

When they have caused a civil war will these people face going to prison for incitement because that's what is going to happen. It's as plain as the nose on your face.

Out means out of the EU. Make our own laws. No open borders. Get the best trade deal we can with the EU and the rest of the world.

What the MPs think and believe don't matter one iota.

The vote was cast, get behind it before it's too late, open your eyes, and your minds.

J KEMPSON
Coseley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

dudley.chron@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and **MUST** include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Sorry Surrey but we will still Brexit

ACCORDING to the Lib Dems the Richmond by-election result is proof that support for Brexit is crumbling.

The south-east is a Remain heartland with counties such as Surrey populated largely by the well-off.

If the result proves anything at all it is that the EU benefits the rich.

We know from bitter experience that anything which favours the wealthy almost always comes at a cost to people lower down the pecking order. Joining the EEC was supposed to help protect jobs we were told, but it doesn't work because it can't.

The EU is all about red tape and endless restrictive legislation shackling us hand and foot. Goodbye to all that.

If Europe wants free trade with us that's great, but massive payments to Brussels and open door immigration is too high a price.

We are already talking to the wider world about trade deals and no one can stop that now. Not even the Richmond Lib Dems.

BOB MONTROSE
Sedgley

Purse theft ruins our Christmas

TO all of the shoppers using the Merry Hill Centre – beware.

My wife had her purse stolen from her handbag during a visit to the centre on Friday, December 2.

Thank you to the scum who did this – just before Christmas.

We have to work hard for our money and the only way these morons can get money is to pickpocket people who are looking forward to this festive time of year.

Keep your handbags zipped up and don't leave anything on display.

Don't carry a load of cash, use your cards as those can be cancelled if this happens to you.

It can only take a split second for these thieves to be away with your purse or wallet.

To the thieves I say: thanks for ruining our Christmas.

DAVID POTTER
Brierley Hill

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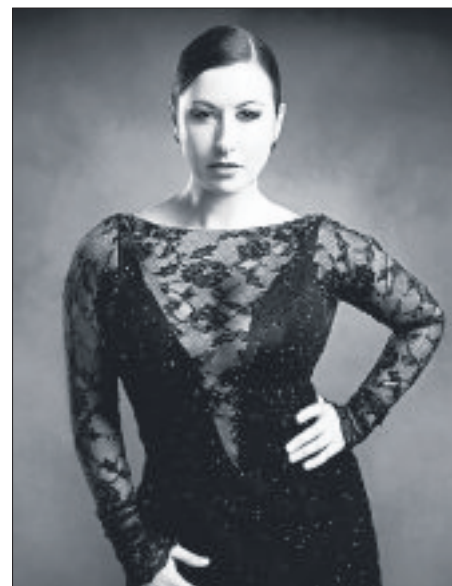
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Mica Paris as Mama Morton



Velma Kelly (Sophie Carmen-Jones) with the chorus of Chicago



Hayley Tamaddon as Roxie Hart



Billy Flynn (John Partridge) with Roxie Hart (Hayley Tamaddon)

Sultry, sexy Chicago!

Chicago, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
THEY'RE giving it the old razzle dazle at the Alex this year, turning it into a joint where the gin is cold and the piano is hot for the latest revival of ever-popular jazz age musical Chicago.

The 1920s-set story about femme fatales turned into paparazzi celebrities is a delicious blend of vaudeville, cynical humour and sex appeal.

The dangerous dames of the Cell Block Tango have seldom been more sultry than in this touring production, that takes up residence as an

alternative to panto in the second city until its final performance on New Year's Eve.

The choreography of Bob Fosse sizzles as the scantily clad girls and boys of the chorus slink, slide and stretch in the most provocative dance routines this side of Cabaret, that other Kander and Ebb classic.

But can soap stars cut it in the major roles? The answer is a resounding yes. Hayley Tamaddon, best known for roles in Emmerdale, Coronation Street, and her skating exploits, is a real song and dance woman with a nice edge of quirky humour as Roxie Hart. What she lacks in stature to Sophie Carmen-Jones's high-kicking Velma Kelly, she more than makes up for in chutzpah.

Former EastEnders John Partridge brings a

manic hint of menace to the role of supersmooth shyster lawyer Billy Flynn, whilst Mica Paris brings soul power to the role of Mama Morton, prison fixer and 'countess of the clink'.

Strong support comes from Neil Ditt as the hapless Amos Hart - his Mister Cellophane number is excellent - and A D Richardson as the alarmingly pseudo-operatic rose-tinted columnist Mary Sunshine. Having a jazz band on stage as part of the action adds to this production's kinetic energy.

The first night audience on Monday loved it. Chicago is a sure bet for satisfaction if you're looking for a grown-up showbiz spectacular, and all that jazz, this festive season.

Leon Burakowski



A scene from Billy Flynn's big number All I Care About

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Farewell party as activities for elderly halted by cuts

IT WAS the end of an era for a popular activity centre for the elderly in Brierley Hill as it held its farewell Christmas party.

More than 250 people attended the event at The Copthorne Hotel for the final gathering of The Age UK Springboard group.

Due to funding cuts – from the council and the Big Lottery Fund – it was announced earlier this year that the centre would have to shut after 13 years.

However, long-standing volunteers, clients and staff members vowed to remain upbeat in the face of adversity.

Fran Cartwright explained: “We are all really sad but we said that we would go out with a bang and we have. Over the years we have helped so many people, those who are lonely and isolated have had somewhere to go and something to look forward to.

“The main thing is that we have to remain upbeat and look to the future. We would like to thank everyone for their support and help over the years, including the services we have worked with and Ian Austin MP.”

The centre looked after 700 people by holding weekly activities including exercise classes and ballroom dancing. They had three staff and around 40 volunteers.

June Hill, aged 72, of Colley Gate, had been volunteering at the centre for 10 years. She said: “I am very sad about the closure because it has been a big part of my life for so long.”

Pauline Burbidge, of Wollescote, has been attending for 12 years since the loss of her husband. She added: “It has helped me so much, in fact Springboard has changed my life.”



Staff and helpers Fran Cartwright, Alison Pugh, Sandy Jones, Shirley Jefferies, Jill Ford and Sam Mullett

Pet ban on owner after cats starved

A WOMAN has been banned for keeping animals for life after two cats starved to death at a filthy house in Stourbridge. The RSPCA said both animals had ‘suffered immensely’.

A member of the public raised the alarm after spotting the body of one of the cats through the window of the house in Bridle Road in March. The RSPCA and a police officer found the second cat in the toilet.

Pets owner Karen Whittingham, 44, of Winsford Avenue, Kingswinford, appeared at Birmingham Magistrates Court last week after being found guilty in her absence earlier in the year of causing unnecessary suffering to the two cats by failing to feed them. She was also found guilty of failing to ensure the cats were housed in a suitable environment.

Whittingham was given a four-month prison sentence suspended for 12 months, ordered to do 120 hours of unpaid work and to pay costs of £500 and an £85 victim surcharge.

RSPCA inspector Paul Seddon said: “These two poor cats would have suffered immensely before they died.”

Low skilled immigration has to stop, says MP

GOVERNMENT must clamp down on low skilled immigrants taking the jobs of unemployed Britons, says Dudley North MP Ian Austin.

The Labour MP says cheap overseas workers are undercutting wages and preventing young British workers from getting jobs.

At Home Office Questions, Mr Austin called on Home Secretary Amber Rudd to acknowledge the impact of low-skilled migration on different communities across the country.

“There’s no point London politicians lecturing people in places like the Black Country with national statistics because this has different impacts in different communities,” he said.

Abroad

“Why are low-skilled migrants coming here when we still have hundreds of thousands of unemployed people. Why haven’t they stopped companies just advertising jobs abroad or using workers from overseas to undercut wages here and why don’t they require large firms to train up local apprentices if they do have to hire abroad?”

In response the Home Secretary said Mr Austin’s comments were ‘a little rich’ as Labour had failed to control immigration when it was in power. “There are no lectures coming from my party—only hard answers,” she said.

“The answer is that we will be restricting immigration when we move to leaving the European Union.”

Mr Austin set out a range of measures to manage the impact of low-skilled migration, including stopping companies from only advertising jobs abroad and requiring large firms to train up local apprentices.

But he came under attack from shadow home secretary Diane Abbott, who accused Labour MPs that discussed immigration of trying to outdo UKIP.

Pensioner’s death in lake was suicide

A MISSING pensioner whose body was found in a fishing pool had killed himself, an inquest heard.

A church warden and popular member of the local community, William Jewkes, aged 75, was found in the pool at Parkes Hall Road in Dudley on November 25 by a man walking his dog. Mr Jewkes, who was found at the location just a mile away from his home in Sedgley, was wearing a rucksack filled with roof tiles.

Black Country Coroner’s Court in Oldbury was told his family had become concerned after Mr Jewkes, who was a warden at Upper Gornal Methodist Church, disappeared from the home he shared with his son, Matthew, on November 22.

Better known as Bill, Mr Jewkes had left his car keys, watch and mobile phone at his home on Tipton Road. Police were alerted police to his disappearance that day.

Mr Jewkes had last been seen at the church when he opened the building for a mother and toddlers’ group on the morning of November 22. Friends had described their ‘upset and disbelief that he could take his own life’.

The coroner heard that Mr Jewkes had been worried about a future knee operation but was given the medical aid clear just a day before he disappeared after he suffered a seizure earlier this year.

Mr Jewkes was described as a ‘keen member of the community’ and a committed Christian.

Giving his condolences to the family, senior Black Country coroner Zafar Siddique ruled cause of death as suicide.

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If your turkey's frozen, make sure it has time to fully defrost



Cooking your turkey in advance could give you more time – for festive table decorations

Make your turkey a real Christmas Day cracker

By Sophie Madden

FOR many people the traditional Christmas lunch is one of the most eagerly anticipated parts of the big day.

And it's easy to see why; a beautiful golden roast turkey with all the trimmings is a sight to treasure.

But if you want to make it taste as good as it looks and avoid getting into a flap on Christmas morning just follow the British Turkey Information Service's tips for success:

1. Choose a British bird with the Quality British Turkey logo alongside the familiar Red Tractor. This ensures high standards in animal welfare, food safety and traceability.
2. If you are not sure what size to buy, visit www.britishturkey.co.uk and check the size guide. And if you need a large turkey check your oven dimensions first!
3. Calculate the defrosting and cooking times well in advance so you can allow plenty of time – some turkeys may take a few days to fully defrost.

If you are going to stuff the neck end you must weigh it after stuffing to get the correct cooking time.

Text the word "Turkey" followed by the weight of your turkey in kilos to '64446' for a text back with the cooking times and the number of people it will feed.

4. Allow your cooked turkey to rest for 20-30 minutes after cooking to make keep it juicy and make it easier to carve. TV Chef Phil Vickery shows you how on his carving web film on www.britishturkey.co.uk

5. And for any other turkey advice simply call the friendly team on the British Turkey helpline on 0800 783 9994! The lines are open weekdays 9am-5pm and including Christmas Eve.

6. Online Live Chat is available until December 24. Just visit www.britishturkey.co.uk to get expert advice there and then this Christmas.

Cooking

These are the industry's tried and tested cooking times, but always test the juices run clear to ensure it is cooked.

- Under 4kg allow 20 minutes per kg + 70 minutes.
- Over 4kg allow 20 minutes per kg + 90 minutes.

Weigh the turkey after stuffing to calculate cooking time and remember oven temperatures vary. Cook at 180°C Fan/ 375°F / Gas Mark 5.

Cover loosely with foil and remove foil for last 40 minutes for browning.

More turkey tips

Have you thought about cooking your turkey in advance?

This could save you getting stressed on the day and give you more precious time with your family.

It also helps save valuable fridge space for other foods. Once your turkey is cooked



Text the word "Turkey" followed by the weight of your turkey in kilos to '64446' for a text back with the cooking times



Turkey with all the trimmings make a perfect Christmas meal

and cooled you can slice then batch it into portions and store it in the freezer.

Freezing it in portions will enable you to take out what you need when you need it, and you can save the remaining turkey in the freezer for a later date, perhaps for a New Year's Eve buffet. Just remember that meat previously cooked and frozen should only be reheated once.

If your turkey is frozen and you prefer to roast it on Christmas day, make sure you check the guidance well in advance to de-

frost it according to its size – a typical large turkey weighing 6-7kg could take three days to fully thaw in the fridge.

Always defrost your frozen turkey fully before cooking – partially defrosted turkey may not cook evenly – which means that harmful bacteria could survive the cooking process.

To avoid cross-contamination always put the turkey into a container large enough to catch the defrosted drips.

Get the most out of you turkey by using



Think about portions to help cut down on waste

any juices to make a stock and leftovers to make a soup <http://www.lovefoodhatwaste.com/node/1309>

You can even freeze turkey, other meat and meals cooked from previously cooked and frozen meat. But once defrosted, the pause button is off and you should eat the food within 24 hours. So you can turn your leftover Christmas dinner into a tasty meal for another day. Turkey is so versatile and tasty, just make sure you don't eat it only once a year!

Simple but satisfying supper and sweet treat

TRY something simple but satisfying in the run-up to your Christmas Day feast:

SAUSAGE SUPPER

Ingredients (serves 4-6)

- 2tbsp olive oil
- 2 large onions, sliced into wedges
- 2 red peppers cut into large dice
- 2 garlic cloves, chopped
- 1 tbsp chopped thyme leaves
- 500g baby new potatoes, unpeeled and halved
- 12 sausages, pricked with a fork
- 200ml white wine
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 220C/200C fan/Gas 7.
2. Place all the ingredients except the wine in a large, resealable freezer bag. Seal the bag shut and shake well to coat everything in the oil. Alternatively, put everything in a large bowl and turn the ingredients until they are fully coated in the oil. Tip into a large roasting tin, spreading the ingredients out into one even layer and ensuring that the sausages aren't covered by any of the vegetables. Season well with salt and pepper.
3. Roast for about 30-35 minutes until golden, then remove from the oven, turn the sausages over and toss the vegetables in the cooking juices. Pour in the wine and return to the oven for a further 20 minutes, or until browned and the sausages are cooked and the potatoes tender. Serve hot with a dollop of mustard on the side.



Recipe from Absolute Favourites by Mary Berry published by BBC Books, priced £25.

Peach & Creme Fraiche Cake

Ingredients (serves 12-16)

- For the cake
 - 450g self-raising flour
 - 2tsp baking powder
 - 200g butter, plus extra for greasing
 - 350g demerara sugar
 - 6 eggs
 - 150g crème fraîche
 - 25ml peach schnapps or peach juice
- For the crumble
 - 100ml peach puree
 - 7 peaches, halved and stoned, or 2 x 400g tins peach halves, drained
- For the crumble
 - 60g plain flour
 - 1/2tsp ground cinnamon
 - 30g butter, diced
 - 30g demerara sugar
- For the topping
 - 100g crème fraîche
 - 100g cream cheese
 - 50ml double cream



Method

1. Preheat the oven to 150C/Gas 1 and grease and line a 24cm high-sided, loose-bottomed cake tin.
2. To make the cake, place the flour, baking powder and butter in a bowl and rub together to form a breadcrumb-like texture. Stir in the sugar.
3. In a separate bowl, whisk the eggs, crème fraîche, peach schnapps or juice, and puree together, then pour onto the dry mixture and mix to a thick batter.
4. Pour half into the prepared tin and tap the tin gently to settle the batter. Place the peach halves, cut-side up, onto the batter in concentric circles, then top with the remaining batter, smoothing over the top.
5. Bake in the centre of the oven for one-and-three-quarter hours until golden and risen. A skewer inserted into the centre of the cake should come out clean – if it doesn't, return the cake to the oven for a further five minutes and repeat. Leave the cake in the tin to cool completely.
6. While the cake cools, make the crumble to go on top. Turn the oven up to 180C/Gas 4. Place the flour, ground cinnamon and butter in a bowl and rub until the mix resembles fine breadcrumbs. Add the sugar and stir to combine. Spread out over a baking sheet and bake for six to eight minutes until golden brown and crispy. Set aside to cool on the baking sheet.
7. For the topping, whisk the crème fraîche, cream cheese and double cream together, then spread over the cake while it's still in the tin – this will give you a neat finish. Scatter the crumble over the top to cover the cream, then ease the cake out from the tin.

Recipe from Sweet by James Martin published by Quadrille, priced £20.

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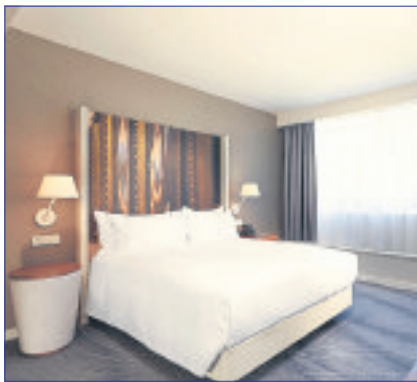
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Old Town on a winter morning in Wroclaw, Poland



Rest up – a bedroom at the Doubletree



Hotel heaven – the Doubletree, Wroclaw

Cultural city with so many intriguing sights

IT'S a tricky city to pronounce, presuming you've even heard of it, but once you've nailed its name, Wroclaw (pronounced Vrots-Vaaff) in southwest Poland, it's easy enough to visit, especially for a short break.

It's less than a two-hour flight from the UK, served direct by budget airlines (airports include Luton, Bristol and Liverpool) and is remarkably good value, with a pint of beer or a cappuccino costing just over £1 each.

Wroclaw, presently European Capital of Culture, is itself the capital of the province of Lower Silesia. It's made up of 12 islands, connected by more than 130 bridges and plenty of cycle paths.

I hire a bike from my hotel, the new Doubletree by Hilton, a striking, elliptical building close to the Old Town, and cut through the leafy Slowacki Park to the ivy-covered National Museum overlooking the river Oder.

The museum's home to Silesian paintings, silverware and ceramics, but keen to enjoy the mild autumnal weather, I cycle on, passing pleasure boats, cafes and families out for a stroll.

I pick a bridge – which happens to be Most Piaskowy (Sand Bridge), the oldest in Wroclaw – cross over and find myself on Ostrow Tumski (cathedral island), known for its religious buildings, dominated by the twin spires of Wroclaw Cathedral. Stone statues of lions flank the entrance.

One is almost worn away; the other is largely intact. I learn later that the former was the statue women would touch if they wanted to be married within a year. The other was for would-be grooms.

I bump over the island's cobbled streets to Tumski Bridge, where romance rears its head again; the bridge's railings are covered in padlocks attached by couples keen to demonstrate everlasting love, by tossing the keys into the river.

Back in the Old Town, I join a walking tour, beginning at The Rynek, a pedestri-

HOLIDAYS

By Karen Bowerman

anised market square, lined with gabled houses with decorative facades and open-air cafes selling traditional Zywiec beer.

Our group's guide, Michal Filarowski, explains the city was largely destroyed during the Second World War, and that none of the medieval-style buildings are original.

As we wander around, I spot two of the city's quirkiest tourist attractions: a couple of bronze dwarfs.

The mischief makers are a nod to the Orange Alternative, an anti-communist movement that used nonsensical slogans to ridicule the regime in the Eighties.

When the authorities painted over anti-government graffiti, the movement painted dwarfs instead.

Papa Krasnal (Papa dwarf), an official monument to the movement, was erected decades later. Soon afterwards, businesses, noting Papa's popularity, created specialist dwarfs of their own.

You'll now find dwarf beauticians, butchers and bakers. I even meet a bespectacled fellow dressed in a striped scarf at the university gates.

I finish with a coffee in the city's indoor market.

Its vaulted ceiling is said to have inspired Wroclaw's architectural landmark, the domed 20th century Centennial Hall.

I sit surrounded by fruit, vegetables and massive displays of flowers. But I'm most intrigued by the mushrooms, collected from forests across Lower Silesia.

One stallholder talks me through his offering; there are kurki, borowiki, podgrzybki and prawdziwki – all delicious, but utterly unpronounceable, of course!

● **Doubletree by Hilton opened its doors in August. There are 189 rooms, many overlooking the city's Slowacki Park. Standard doubles cost from £79 per night including breakfast when booking direct at www.wroclaw.doubletree.com**



Pole position – attractive buildings fronting Medieval Solny Square in The Rynek

Dog-lovers can take a break with their pooch



Visit Tewkesbury Park with your four-legged friend

SET in 163 acres of majestic parkland, commanding views of the Cotswolds countryside and beyond, Tewkesbury Park has the perfect backdrop for dogs to accompany their owners for a well-earned break.

Undulating grounds mean dogs are in doggie heaven. With this in mind, the team at the hotel have created a new Canine Retreat Experience, ideal for guests who don't wish to leave their trusty friend in a kennel.

Priced at £199, the Canine Retreat includes:

- A welcome pack in a dog-friendly room with doggie treats, a luxury Hunt & Wilson dog bed, suggested walks and tailored information
- Traditional afternoon tea
- Three-course dinner for two in the Piano Lounge, along with a "Dog's Dinner" prepared by chef for the pampered pooch
- £25 spa gift voucher (per room)
- Overnight accommodation with full use of all the leisure facilities
- Full English breakfast and dogs will receive a sausage or two

All dog-friendly rooms have patio doors, opening directly onto the hotel's grounds, with dog bins placed directly outside the room – perfect for any mid-night toilet emergencies!

Leisure

Tewkesbury Park recently completed an extensive two-year renovation at a cost of £4 million, with the brand new addition of nine luxury historic suites, two new spa rooms, two meeting rooms, an orangery and a cocktail lounge.

The main foyer, reception, communal areas and guestrooms have been completely refurbished.

Tewkesbury Park's leisure facilities include an 18-hole par 73 parkland golf course and academy course, as well as an extensive Leisure Club with a swimming pool, gym, squash and tennis courts, sauna and steam room.

Tewkesbury Park is only five minutes from M5 junction nine, on the doorstep of Tewkesbury and within easy reach of Cheltenham, Gloucester and Worcester.

For information and reservations, please call 01684 295 405, or email reservations@tewkesburypark.co.uk, or visit www.tewkesburypark.co.uk

Meanwhile, The Kennel Club, the UK's largest dog welfare organisation, has launched a new free online service that will enable dog lovers to find a range of shows and dog events in their area, including breed specific shows, agility, heelwork to music, rally and obedience, using a simple postcode search or breed search to find events featuring specific breeds of dog.

The Find a Dog Show service is available at www.findadogshow.org.uk or www.thekennelclub.org.uk



In a spin over Christmas shopping? Snap up a park pass



Fun for all ages at Drayton Manor Theme Park

THOSE struggling to find the perfect Christmas present need look no further as Drayton Manor Park's 2017 Season Pass is now available to purchase online.

It's the gift that keeps on giving because with a Drayton Manor Season Pass or Season Pass Plus you can create a year to remember and experience the fun, thrills and delights all year round for just a fraction of the price. Plus be the first to know of the latest events, competitions and offers throughout the year.

The 2017 Season Pass costs £70 for those aged 4+ and £40 for those aged 2-3 years and provides unlimited access to the park from March 30 to October 27.

The Season Pass Plus costs £100 aged 4+ and £55 for those aged 2-3

years and provides unlimited access to the park from March 30, 2017, to February 26, 2018, including February half term 2018.

It also provides access to the hugely popular Firework Spectacular weekend and unlimited access to the award winning Magical Christmas event with one Father Christmas experience per season pass holder.

Both passes offer 20 per cent off in all park catering and retail outlets, 20 per cent off at the Grill Inn and hotel restaurants plus friends and family offers throughout the season and access to exclusive competitions, news, events and offers.

To book or for more information about the park, visit www.draytonmanor.co.uk or call 0844 472 1950.

For regular updates and news

about Drayton Manor Park, join it on Twitter www.twitter.com/Draytonmanor and Facebook www.facebook.com/DraytonManorPark

Season passes are subject to availability. Access is not available on park buyout days or days that the park is closed (season pass holders will be notified via email of any dates but please check the website for full list of opening times and dates).

The park will be closed to the public on specific dates, please see website for details. Prices only valid if purchased before December 24.

Pre-booking is essential for some events, subject to availability. For more information visit: www.draytonmanor.co.uk/tickets-and-prices/seasonpass

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'Phil' plots a
wicked End-er
See Page 15



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Festive Favourites



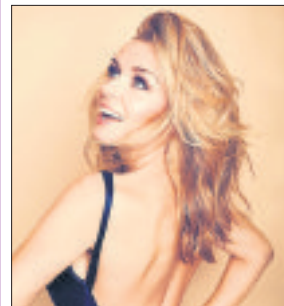
Friday and Monday, 7.30pm, Sunday, 3.30pm, 7.30pm
Symphony Hall, Birmingham
Actress Jessica Hynes (pictured) presents a series of Christmas concerts featuring the CBSO's various choral groups, conducted by Simon Halsey.
Visit tshh.co.uk

Tinned Astronaut



Saturday, 7pm
Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton
Wolftown put on another showcase of the best new bands in the city, including Tinned Astronaut. Black and the Chilliholders, Second Hand Genes, HDS and Runaway Hounds.
Visit wolvscivic.co.uk

Katherine Jenkins



Thursday, 7.30pm
Symphony Hall, Birmingham
The celebrated Welsh soprano joins the London Concert Orchestra for a celebration with songs from her recent album celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday plus festive favourites.
Visit tshh.co.uk

CHRISTMAS

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Tonight - Sun,
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Call 01215 579643

Festive Favourites
Tonight, Sun - Mon, various
Birmingham Symphony Hall,
The International Convention Centre, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Roving Canal Traders Floating Christmas Market
Today - tomorrow,
Barclaycard Arena, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

Christmas Charity Concert with Birmingham Festival Choral Society
Tomorrow,
Ladywood ARC, Birmingham, B16 8TF.
Call 0121 4540973

Christmas Crafts
Tomorrow,
Sandwell Valley Nature Reserve, West Bromwich, B43 5AG.
Call 0121 357 7395

Christmas storytelling in the house
Tomorrow,
Croome Court, High Green, Worcester, WR8 9DW.
Call 01905 371006

Christmas Ramble
Sun,
Weston Park, Weston-under-Lizard, Shifnal, TF11 8LE.
Call 01952 852100

Solihull Photographic Society - Christmas Knock Out
Tue,
Solihull Women's Institute, B91 3DQ.
Call 07815 165438

Carols and Sunday Lunch
Sun,
Weston Park, Weston-under-Lizard, Shifnal, TF11 8LE.
Call 01952 852100

Christmas Crafts
Sun,
Sandwell Valley Nature Reserve, West Bromwich, B43 5AG.
Call 0121 357 7395

Woodland Father Christmas
Sun,
Clent Hills, B62 0NL.
Call 01562 712 822

Ex Cathedra: Christmas Music by Candlelight
Mon - Wed,
St. Pauls Church, St. Pauls Square, Birmingham, B3 1QZ.
Call 0121 236 7858

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Thu,
Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB.
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Call 0121 246 2273

Madness
Tomorrow,
Barclaycard Arena, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

Wolftown ft. Tinned Astronaut + others
Tomorrow,
The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

The Stones
Tonight,
Theatre on the Steps, Bridgnorth, WV16 4BD.
Call 01746 766477

Touchstone - Christmas Bash
Sun, £17.50 - £20
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

The Sweet featuring Andy Scott
Mon, £20 - £22.50
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

The Hair Rock Experience
Thu, £5
The RoadHouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

FOLK, COUNTRY & ACOUSTIC

Kit Hawes & Aaron Catlow
Tonight,
SpArC Theatre, Bishops Castle, SY9 5AY.
Call 01588 630321 or 01588 638038

Hollis & Hawkes Live Acoustic Set
Tonight,
Six Eight Cafe, Birmingham, B2 5HG.
Call 0121 448 8089

Traditional Music Session
Sun,
The Prince of Wales Moseley, Birmingham, B13 8EE.
Call 0121 4494198

JAZZ, SOUL, BLUES, MOTOWN & REGGAE

Red Lemon Electric Blues Band
Tonight,
Stourbridge Town Hall, DY8 1YE.
Call 01384 812960

Soul City
Sun, £18
The RoadHouse Birmingham, Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Urban Intro
Mon - Wed, £5 - £10
The Jam House, Birmingham, B31QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

Jazz Tuesdays
Tue,
Spotted Dog, Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0NH.
Call 0121 772 3822

Detroit Soul
Thu,
The Jam House, Birmingham, B31QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

POP

Spice Girls Tribute Night at Bel Air Nightclub
Tonight - Thu,
The Belfry Hotel & Resort, Wishaw, Sutton Coldfield, B76 9PR.
Call 0844 980 0600

Showaddywaddy
Tomorrow, £20 - £22
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Sunday Classics
Sun,
Spotted Dog, Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0NH.
Call 0121 772 3822

James Arthur
Wed, 7pm
02 Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 437 4150

CLASSICAL

Stourport Choral Society
Wed,
Areley Kings Village Hall, Areley Common, Stourport-on-Severn, DY13 0NB.
Call 07939 318973

Katherine Jenkins
Thu, 7pm
Birmingham Symphony Hall, The International Convention Centre, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

COMEDY

Ken Dodd - Happiness Show
Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

King Kong Comedy Club
Thu,
Gunmakers Arms, Birmingham, B4 6HG.
Call 0121 236 8486

THEATRE

Robin Hood: The Panto
Tue - Thu,
Ludlow Assembly Rooms, SY8 1AZ.
Call 01584 878141

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland
Tonight, £8 - £16
Number 8 Community Arts Centre, Pershore WR10 1BG.
Call 01386 555028

Treasure Island
Tonight - Thu,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, Library of Birmingham, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Chicago The Musical
Tonight - Thu,
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Faulty Towers The Dining Experience
Tonight - tomorrow, £50
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, Library of Birmingham, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

A Christmas Carol
Tonight - tomorrow,
The Crescent Theatre, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B16 8AE.
Call 0121 643 5858

Aladdin
Tonight - tomorrow,
Hall Green Little Theatre, Birmingham, B27 7RY.
Call 0121 707 1874

Robin Rood: The Panto (relaxed performance)
Sun, £5 - £22
Ludlow Assembly Rooms, SY8 1AZ.
Call 01584 878141

The Muppet Christmas Carol (film screening)
Sun,
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Bolshoi: The Nutcracker
Sun, £11.20 - £13.44
Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB.
Call 01684 892277

A Christmas Wassail 2016
Sun - Tue,
The Crescent Theatre, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B16 8AE.
Call 0121 643 5858

Snow White - The World's Biggest Pantomime
Mon - Thu,
Barclaycard Arena, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

Dick Whittington
Mon - Thu,
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

Moscow State Circus
Tue - Thu,
Star City, Birmingham, B7 5SA.
Call 0121 270 4455

ARTS & CULTURE

Furs, Fire and Ice
Tonight,
Dewalls Court, Dewalls, Hereford, HR2 8DA.
Call 01432 276 724

The Roaring 20s Party
Tonight - Sun, Thu,
The International Convention Centre, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 200 2000

Short Introductory Talk: Help & Healing on the Spiritual Path through the teaching of Bruno Groening
Tomorrow, Free
The Polish Millenium Centre, Birmingham, B5 5PH.
Call 0121 643 3577

Cellar Tour
Erasmus Darwin House, Lichfield, WS13 7AD.
Call 01543 306260

Whyley Dance
Tue,
Areley Kings Village Hall, Areley Common, Stourport-on-Severn, DY13 0NB.
Call 07939 318973

Chance to Dance
Thu,
Areley Kings Village Hall, Areley Common, Stourport-on-Severn, DY13 0NB.
Call 07939 318973

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

EastEnders caught acting bug in Brum

STEVE 'Phil Mitchell' McFadden is a total rat. He's a dirty rat. He's King Rat.

From Monday to January 29 he'll be hamming it up with John Barrowman, comedy duo The Krankies, comedian Matt Slack, Over The Rainbow winner Danielle Hope and I'd Do Anything winner Jodie Prenger in Birmingham's biggest panto.

Audiences can expect plenty of laughs, outrageous costumes, wonderful sets and scenery, and some amazing special effects in Dick Whittington.

"It'll be good fun," he says. "I cut my teeth in panto working with Matt Slack. We're good mates. We hang out together and go for drinks. He's been on EastEnders as well."

Steve, Matt and co have spent several weeks getting the show in shape.

Steve's professional career has mostly centred in London. He hails from Maida Vale, learned how to act at Rada and played EastEnders hardman Phil Mitchell at the BBC's London studios. Birmingham, however, may well have put him on the road to his acting career.

Back in the 1970s he visited the Second City regularly to flog perfume and jewellery as he tried to earn a few bob as a Del Boy-style market trader.

"I used to work with my dad on the walkway to the Bull Ring," he says. "We used to park the old Austin Morris and have a bit of kit in the back. Then we'd do the walkway. I just remember this big wide concourse and we'd sell out every time."

"If it was raining in London we'd come up at the weekend and sell in



Steve 'Phil Mitchell' McFadden with Hippodrome panto co-star and pal Matt Slack

Birmingham instead. We'd smash it and we'd have a good laugh with the people."

The gear was straight up guv. Honest. And working as an out-of-the-suitcase trader helped turn Steve into acting.

"We had a bit of a Del Boy thing

with my dad and his partner. We'd turn the milk crates upside down and sell off the top. I'd always have a laugh with the Brummies. In many ways, that was my first steps into acting, the first time I was dealing with the public face-to-face. I got confident doing that."

Sweet 70s memories

BLOCKBUSTER! Hellraiser. Teenage Rampage. Ballroom Blitz... solid gold glam rock 1970s hits that put The Sweet on Top Of The Pops and the cover of teenybopper mags more than 40 years ago.

Sweet are back on the road with original guitarist and co-singer Andy Scott (pictured left), including a gig at Bilston's Robin 2 venue on Monday. Original lead singer Brian Connolly died in 1997. Andy Scott's version of the band features lead vocals from bassist Pete Lincoln, who previously worked with Shakin' Stevens and Sir Cliff Richard. The band also features two former members of melodic hard rock outfit Praying Mantis, keyboards/guitarist Tony O'Hara and drummer Bruce Bisland.

Sweet are also special guests at the Bay City Rollers' Shang-a-Lang-a-Xmas Show at Wolverhampton Civic Hall tonight (Thursday), featuring original Rollers Les McKeown, Alan Longmuir and Stuart Wood.

The Sweet's 70s Black Country rivals Slade, featuring originals Dave Hill and Don Powell, have sold out their 'Ome Town gig at the Robin tomorrow (Friday).

Fans of rock 'n' roll can join 70s hitmakers, Showaddywaddy, at the Robin on Saturday. The retro outfit had ten top five hits - Hey Rock and Roll, Under the Moon of Love, When, You Got What It Takes, Three Steps to Heaven, Heartbeat, I Wonder Why, Dancin' Party, A Little Bit of Soap, and Pretty Little Angel Eyes. Ex-singer Dave Bartram has been the band's manager for 30 years and Andy Pelos took over as lead singer five years ago. The group features original members Romeo Challenger and Rod Deas.

Region's rockers in showcase gigs

CHECK out young bands tipped to break out of the West Midlands scene in 2017 at the showcase gig run by Baddies Boogie at the 02 Institute in Digbeth tomorrow night (Friday).

The five band line up in The Blue Room features Kung Fu Rin Tin Tin plus Brum outfit State, Wolverhampton four-piece Shush, Kidderminster's Plastic Scene and the Black Country's Rebellion.

It's the same night Wolverhampton powerhouse rock trio God Dam have a late finishing gig at the Hare and Hounds pub in Kings Heath. Also on that bill are Johnny Foreigner, Youth Man, False Grails and Matters.

Red hot and blue with the Lemons

RED Lemons Electric Blues Band, one of the top live bands in the Black Country and Brum back in the '80s, have got the band back together for another reunion concert.

Following the success of last year's 30 year reunion shows, the Red Lemons are going to bring their good time R&B and soul back to Stourbridge Town Hall tomorrow night (Friday).

The band fronted by Big Jim Merris has celebrity fans including brief former member Adrian Chiles and Suzi Perry. The gig is on its way to being a sell-out. Tickets cost £22, on 0870 320 7000, or see www.dudley.gov.uk/entertainment-website.

Jungle Joel jokes at Slade Rooms

COMEDIAN and actor Joel Dommett will bring his new show to Wolverhampton next year. The runner-up in this year's I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here, will perform at the Slade Rooms on March 2.

Starting out on the comedy scene in 2007, the 30-year-old has gone onto receive critical acclaim for his Edinburgh Fringe shows and in numerous television shows.

Meanwhile, satirical comedian Andy Zaltman brings his Plan Z to the same Broad Street venue on February 24.

For tickets call 0870 320 7000, or email boxoffice@wolvescivic.co.uk.

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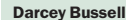
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DIGITAL



Strictly Come Dancing (BBC1, 8.40pm)

Over the past 13 weeks, we've experienced highs, lows and Ed Balls performing a salsa to Gangnam Style, but hopefully Strictly has still got some surprises in store as the remaining celebrity finalists face one last ballroom battle to see who will be lifting the famous trophy. Some viewers pegged Danny Mac as the winner following his impressive week one cha cha cha, but we could be in for an upset as the stars perform three routines – their favourite number from the series, the judges' choice (which in previous years has usually been one the celebrity didn't quite nail to see if they can improve) and the no-holds-barred showdance. There'll also be group number, a performance by Emeli Sande.

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin – Home Comforts at Christmas. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Sports Personality 2016: The Contenders. (R) **2.15** Bargain Hunt. **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Final Score. **5.30** BBC News. **5.40** Regional Programme. **5.50** Pointless Celebrities.

6.40 Strictly Come Dancing. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman host the live grand final, which sees the remaining three celebrities and their partners performing three routines each – a spectacular showdance, a routine from the series chosen by the judges and the one routine they hope will help them lift the glitterball trophy. Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcey Bussell give their comments and scores for the performances, but they are for guidance only – the decision as to who walizes off with this year's title is strictly down to the viewers' vote. Last in the series.

8.55 Michael McIntyre's Big Show. Jack Whitehall joins Michael on stage at London's Theatre Royal, on Drury Lane, along with Sting who performs some of his classic hits, and music from his new album 57th & 9th. Plus, Ricky Gervais's infuriating middle-manager-turned-musician David Brent makes a special appearance. Celebrity chef Jamie Oliver risks the ire of his friends and family as Michael seizes his phone in *Send To All*, and two people from the same family receive the surprise of their lives in *Unnected Star*.

10.15 The National Lottery Live. The all-important winning numbers are revealed.

10.25 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Crystal Palace v Chelsea and West Bromwich Albion v Manchester United; National Lottery Update.

11.45 The NFL Show. Mark Chapman looks at the major stories shaping the NFL world, joined by former Super Bowl winners Osi Umenyiora and Jason Bell.

12.15 Film: *Old School*. (2003) **1.45**
Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.50** BBC
News

6.50 Film: *Holiday Affair*. (1949) **8.15 Film:** *The Bishop's Wife*. (1947) **10.00** This Farming Life. (R) **11.00** This Farming Life. (R) **12.00** Wild Japan. (R) **1.00** Wild Japan. (R) **2.00** Wild Japan. (R) **3.00 Film:** *The Odd Life of Timothy Green*. (2012) Fantasy, starring Jennifer Garner. **4.35 Film:** *Nativity 2: Danger in the Manger!* (2012) Comedy sequel, starring David Tennant.

6.25 Dad's Army. First-ever episode of the classic comedy, in which bank manager George Mainwaring assembles a motley crew of volunteers to protect Britain from Nazi invasion. Arthur Lowe stars.

6.55 Operation Snow Tiger. Part two of two. Cameraman Max Hug Williams follows a tiger to see if she has new cubs, while Liz Bonnin searches for another female that has gone missing. (R)

7.55 Walt Disney – Part Two. Documentary exploring the life, career and legacy of Walt Disney, presenting a portrait of the animator as an ambitious entrepreneur whose masterpieces defined an industry.

8.55 Film: A Christmas Carol. (2009)
A foul-tempered Victorian miser who hates the festive season is visited on Christmas Eve by a series of ghosts. The spirits intend to make him mend his wicked ways by showing him visions of the past, the present and what the future will hold for him if he does not change for the better. Animated fantasy based on Charles Dickens' novel, featuring motion-captured performances by Jim Carrey and Gary Oldman.

10.25 QI XL. Sandi Toksvig quizzes guests Miles Jupp, Deirdre O'Kane and Phill Jupitus and regular panelist Alan Davies on a series of subjects involving non sequiturs in this extended episode

11.10 Porridge. Fletch discovers fellow inmates at Slade Prison are planning an escape over Christmas. Festive edition from 1975 with Ronnie Barker (R)

11.50 The Making of Young Men. Documentary going behind the scenes of BalletBoyz' first feature film, a re-working of the company's hugely successful stage production of the same name that premiered in 2015

12.20 Balletboyz – Young Men. (R) 1.20
Film: Chances Are. (1989) **3.05** This Is
BBC Two

6.00 CITY: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20 Dino Dan:** Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35 Signed Stories:** Share a Story. (R) **6.40 Thunderbirds Are Go.** (R) **7.00 Super 4.** (R) **7.15 Oddbods.** (R) **7.20 Oddbods.** (R) **7.25 Scrambled!** Scrambled! **7.30 Scrambled!** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50 Scrambled!** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10 Scrambled!** The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.30 Scrambled!** Scooby-Doo! Mystery Incorporated. (R) **Adventure Time.** (R) **9.25 ITV News.** **9.30 Film:** Carry On Follow That Camel. (1967) Comedy, with Jim Dale. **11.20 Judge Rinder.** (R) **12.25 ITV News.** Weather. **12.35 This Time Next Year.** (R) **1.35 Film:** Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium. (2007) Fantasy, comedy.

starring Dustin Hoffman and Natalie Portman. **3.20** Thunderbirds Are Go. **3.45** Regional Programme ; Weather. **4.00** ITV News; Weather. **4.15** **Film:** The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring. (2001) Fantasy adventure, starring Elijah Wood.

7.30 Film: The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (2012) Unassuming hobbit Bilbo Baggins is pulled out of his comfortable life in the Shire by Gandalf the wizard volunteered him for a dangerous quest. He joins a party of dwarves who are on a mission to reclaim their lost homeland, which has been taken over by a dragon. When the group journeys into the Misty Mountains, Bilbo becomes separated from the dwarves and falls into a cave, where he finds his destiny. Inspired by Gollum and forced to play a riddle game. It is set in Middle-earth 60 years before the events of *The Lord of the Rings* and is the first of Peter Jackson's fantasy adventure trilogy based on JRR Tolkien's novel, starring Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Christopher Jackson, James Nesbitt, Cate Blanchett, Peter Dinklage, Ian Holm and Christopher Lee.

10.40 ITV News: Weather.

10.55 Film: *Private Benjamin*. (1980) A society widow enlists in the army in the hope of finding a new direction, but comes into conflict with her tough commanding officer. Comedy, with Goldie Hawn and Armand Assante

12.55 Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.

6. 10 Three Peaks Yacht Race. **7.05**
Everybody Loves Raymond. **(R) 7.30**
Everybody Loves Raymond. **(R) 8.00**
Frasier. **(R) 8.30** Frasier. **(R) 9.00** The
Morning Line. **10.00** The Big Bang
Theory. **(R) 10.25** The Big Bang Theory.
(R) 10.50 The Simpsons. **(R) 11.15** The
Simpsons. **(R) 11.45** Film: The Dog
Who Saved the Holidays. (2012)
Premiere. Comedy sequel, starring
Shelley Long. **1.30** Channel 4 Racing.
Live coverage from Ascot and Haydock
Park. **4.05** The Simpsons. **(R) 4.35** The
Simpsons. **5.05** Live. **6.40** Film:
Marmaduke Christmas. **(R) 7.40** Film:
Arthur Christmas. (2011) Animated
comedy, with the voice of James
McAvoy.

7.30 Channel 4 News

8.00 **Tree of the Year with Ardal O'Hanlon.** The comedian and former Father Ted actor visits some of the UK's most remarkable trees, before revealing the winners of the Woodland Trust's prestigious Tree of the Year awards from a 28-strong shortlist. Each winning specimen from England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales is then put to a panel of experts, who select just one of the four to take the overall title of UK Tree of the Year.

9.00 It Was Alright in the 1970s. Matt Lucas narrates this look at the programmes that flirted with danger during the decade, including *Blue Peter*, which carried on filming as a fire broke out live on air, while *The Fun of the Fair* showed teenage girls riding motorcycles through burning hoops. At the same time government-produced public information films petrified viewers with scary scenarios of possible accidents in the home. Contributors include Robin Askrigg, Liza Goddard, Oona King, Clive Anderson, Philippa Perry, Samira Ahmed, Ellie Taylor and Gemma Reynolds.

10.00Film: Escape Plan. (2013) A security expert is incarcerated after being duped and tries to break out with the help of a fellow convict. Thriller, with Sylvester Stallone and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

12.15 Film: *The Guest*. (2014) **2.00**
Bear's Wild Weekend with Jonathan Ross. (R) **2.50** *The Last Leg*. (R) **3.45**
Hollyoaks. (R)

6.00 Milkshake! **10.15** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.15 Film:** A Cinderella Christmas. (2016) **1.05 Film:** Christmas Cookies. (2016) **Premiere.** Romantic drama, starring Jill Wagner and Wes Brown. **2.50 Film:** Love Always, Santa. (2016) **Premiere.** Festive romance, starring Marguerite Moreau. **4.35 Film:** Christmas Under Wraps. (2014) **Premiere.** Drama, starring Candace Cameron Bure.

6.25 Film: Space Cowboys. (2000) A former Air Force test pilot, who was sidelined from space exploration because of his difficult character, is recruited 40 years later to help America's post-Cold War Russian allies. Teaming up with three fellow veteran airmen, he uses his expertise in navigation to stop a malfunctioning Soviet satellite from crashing to Earth. Adventure, directed by and starring Clint Eastwood. With Tommy Lee Jones, James Garner, Donald Sutherland, and Michael C. Crowley. Includes 5 News at 7:25pm. Edited for language.

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship George Riley and Lynsey Hignave introduce all the highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Burton Albion v Newcastle United at the Pirelli Stadium, Birmingham City v Brighton & Hove Albion at the AMEX Stadium and Blackburn Rovers v Reading at Ewood Park.

10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Hignave introduce all the goals from the weekend's games in the League One and Two, including Scunthorpe United v Millwall.

10.30 The Funny Thing About Christmas. A selection of comedians and celebrities, including Anthea Turner, Vanessa Feltz, Carl Fogarty and Kerry Godliman, discuss everything they love and loathe about the festive season.

11.30 Greatest Ever Christmas Songs. A celebratory compilation of some of the biggest festive songs over the last 50 years, featuring a wide variety of artists including the

1.25 SuperCasino. **3.10** All New Traffic Cops. (R) **4.00** The Secret Life of Puppies: Terrible Twos. (R) **4.50** House Doctor. (R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

BBC Four
7.00 Queen Elizabeth I: A Timewatch
 Guide **8.00** Last Journey of the Magna
 Carta King **9.00** Modus **10.30** Top of the
 Pops: 1982 **11.00** Ultimate Number 1s at
 the BBC **12.00** Agnetha: Abba and After
1.00 Kings of 70s Romance **2.00** Burt
 Bacharach: A Life in Song **3.30** Close

ITV2
11.35 Catchphrase Celebrity Special
12.35 You've Been Framed! at Christmas
1.35 Elf: Buddy's Musical Christmas **2.35**
Film: Peter Pan (2003) **3.35** FYI Daily
3.40 Film: Peter Pan (2003) **4.45 Film:**
 Snow Dogs (2002) **7.00** You've Been
 Framed! at Christmas **8.00** Scorpion
9.00 Film: A Very Harold & Kumar
 Christmas (2011) **10.50** Family Guy
12.15 Mom **12.40** American Dad! **1.10**
Film: Bring It On (2000) **3.00**
 Teleshopping

ITV3
1.50 Foyle's War **3.50** Midsomer Murders **5.55** Midsomer Murders: Ghosts of Christmas Past **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** The Booze Cruise III **11.00** Inspector Morse **1.15** Wycliffe **2.10** ITV3

Nightscreen 2.30 Teleshopping
ITV4

12.40 Film: The Great Outdoors (1988)
1.45 FYI Daily 1.50 Film: The Great Outdoors (1988) **2.30 Film:** Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989) **3.30 FYI Daily**
4.30 Film: Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989) **4.15 Film:** Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey (1991) **5.15 FYI Daily**
6.20 Film: Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey (1991) **6.10 Film:** On Her Majesty's Secret Service (1969) **7.15 FYI Daily 7.20 Film:** On Her Majesty's Secret Service (1969) **9.00 Film:** The Specialist (1994)
10.05 FYI Daily 10.10 Film: The Specialist (1994) **11.10 Film:** Inside Man (2006) **12.15 FYI Daily 12.20 Film:** Inside Man (2006) **1.50 Hell on Wheels**
2.45 Movies Now 2.50 ITV4 Nightscreen
3.00 TeleShopping.

11.05 Melissa & Joey **1.00** Black-ish
2.00 **Film:** Diary of a Wimpy Kid (2010)
4.00 The Goldbros **5.30** The Big Bang
Theory **9.00** **Film:** The Twilight Saga:
Breaking Dawn – Part 1 (2011) **11.20**
Gogglebox **1.25** Rude Tube **2.30** The
Inbetweeners **3.25** New Girl **5.00**
Revenge

Film4
11.00 Black Nativity (2013) **1.00** Step Up
 (2006) **3.05** Carry On Regardless (1961)
4.55 Chalet Girl (2011) **6.50** Men in Black
 3 (2012) **9.00** Bridesmaids (2011) **11.25**
 Devil's Due (2014) **1.10** Terminator
 Salvation (2009) **3.30** Close

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Gabby Logan

Sports Personality of the Year 2016 (BBC1, 6.40pm)

Gary Lineker, Clare Balding and Gabby Logan present this year's ceremony live from the Genting Arena in Birmingham. Tennis star Andy Murray was presented the prestigious main award in 2015 and is in contention once again after a stellar year that saw him win Wimbledon, claim his second Olympic gold medal and remarkably overhaul Novak Djokovic to end 2016 as world number one. However, he is likely to face stiff competition from other Rio medalists, such as Mo Farah, Laura Kenny and Alistair Brownlee. The Team of the Year, Lifetime Achievement, Young Sports Personality of the Year and Unsung Hero awards will also be handed out.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.40** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Fern Britton Meets Rebecca Ferguson. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News. Weather. **1.15** Flog It! (R) **2.10** Elizabeth at 90 – A Family Tribute. (R) **3.40** Planet Earth II. (R) **4.40** Songs of Praise. **5.15** BBC News. **5.30** Regional Programme. **5.40** Countryfile.

6.40 **Sports Personality of the Year 2016.** Gary Lineker, Clare Balding and Gabby Logan present this year's ceremony live from the Genting Arena in Birmingham. Tennis star Andy Murray was presented the prestigious main award in 2015 and is in contention once again after a stellar year that saw him win Wimbledon, claim his second Olympic gold medal and remarkably overhaul Novak Djokovic to end 2016 as world number one.

9.00 **The Apprentice.** After 11 weeks of challenges that have seen the teams selling sweets, crowdfunding and becoming personal shoppers in a leading department store, the final two battle it out to go into partnership with Alan Sugar. Their final task is to launch their businesses and present their ideas to an audience of industry experts at City Hall, London. But they need assistance, so former contenders return to help each finalist as they come up with brands, devise campaigns and make TV adverts. Will the industry bigwigs like their ideas? And who will have done enough to convince Lord Sugar to pick them as his partner? Last in the series.

10.00 **The Apprentice: You're Hired.** Rhod Gilbert is joined by the winner, the runner-up and Lord Sugar himself, as the business tycoon reveals the reasons behind his final decision. Last in the series.

11.00 BBC News.

11.20 Regional Programme.

11.30 **Walliams & Friend.** Meera Syal becomes David Walliams' latest "friend", joining forces with him in a variety of sketches. A number of celebrities also make fleeting appearances. (R)

12.00 Have I Got a Bit More News for You. Gary Lineker hosts an extended edition of the satirical quiz. **12.45** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.50** BBC News.

BBC2

6.20 A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.05** Big Dreams Small Spaces. (R) **8.05** Countryfile. (R) **9.00** Super Powered Owls: Natural World. (R) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** A to Z of Christmas Cooking. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Tom Kerridge Cooks Christmas. (R) **1.30** Equestrian: Olympia 2016. **4.35** Full Steam Ahead. (R) **5.35** Film: The Terminal. (2004) An Eastern European en route to America is stranded after a coup in his homeland. Comedy, starring Tom Hanks and Catherine Zeta-Jones.

7.40 **Victoria Wood as Seen on TV Special.** Comedy sketches written by and starring Victoria Wood, with Julie Walters, Celia Imrie, Duncan Preston and Susie Blake. (R)

8.20 **Best of British: Victoria Wood.** The comedian and writer looks back on her career in a programme originally broadcast in 1998. She reflects on her childhood in 1960s Lancashire and her long and successful career as a performer. Featuring contributions from regular collaborators Julie Walters and Celia Imrie, and famous fans including Clive James, Thora Hird and Caroline Aherne. (R)

9.00 **Victoria Wood's Middle Christmas.** A festive special from 2009 that attempts to cram an entire night's Christmas viewing into 60 minutes. Highlights include the Midlife Olympics 2009, popular costume drama Lark Pies to Cranchesterford and the adventures of soap star Bo Beaumont, played by Victoria's long-time collaborator Julie Walters. Others joining in the fun are Della Smith, Jayne Torvill, Christopher Dean, Reese Shearsmith and Anton Du Beke. (R)

10.00 **Victoria Wood: At it Again.** A filmed performance at the Royal Albert Hall, taken from the comedian's 2001 UK tour.

11.30 **Film: Last Chance Harvey.** (2008) A miserably New Yorker falls for an equally unfulfilled woman he meets while in London to attend his daughter's wedding. Romantic drama, starring Dustin Hoffman and Emma Thompson.

12.55 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.50** Holby City. Essie's feelings towards Parker lead her to make a questionable decision. (R) **2.50** This Is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Sooty. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Oddbods. (R) **7.20** Oddbods. (R) **7.25** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.30** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: The Poverpuff Girls. (R) **8.30** Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go. **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** Film: All Stars. (2013) **11.20** Let's Do Christmas with Gino & Mel. (R) **12.15** ITV News; Weather. **12.20** Off Their Rockers. (R) **12.50** Film: The Incredible Hulk. (2008) Comic-book adventure, starring Edward Norton. **2.55** Film: National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation. (1989) Comedy, starring Chevy Chase. **4.45** Film: Santa Claus: The Movie. (1985) Family fantasy adventure, starring Dudley Moore.

6.40 **Regional Programme; Weather.**

6.50 **ITV News; Weather.**

7.00 **All Star Mr & Mrs Christmas Special.** Phillip Schofield hosts a special festive edition of the game show, in which celebrity guest couples reveal how much they know about each other – or not, as the case may be. The contestants are Dominic Brunt (Emmerdale's Paddy Kirk) and his wife Jo, boxer Lennox Lewis and his wife violet and T'Pau singer Carol Decker and her husband Richard.

8.00 **Midsomer Murders.** Christmas special of the detective drama. The village of Little Abchurch has stood abandoned since the Second World War, but now plans are afoot to restore it to its former glory. However, the grand reopening takes a grisly turn when a man is murdered. DCI Barnaby and his new partner DS Jamie Winter are soon on the case, and must unravel a web of lies connecting past and present to bring the killer to justice. Neil Dudgeon stars, with Nick Hendrix making his debut as Barnaby's latest assistant. Guest starring Hugh Dennis and Sally Phillips.

10.00 **ITV News; Weather.**

10.20 **Film: Hot Fuzz.** (2007) A zealous policeman is relocated to a sleepy country village. Action comedy, starring Simon Pegg.

12.35 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **6.45** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.10** Frasier. (R) **7.40** Frasier. (R) **8.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **8.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **9.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Lewis vs Nice: F1 2016. **2.05** Film: Inkheart. (2008) Fantasy adventure, starring Brendan Fraser. **4.10** The Snowman. (R) **4.45** Channel 4 News. **5.10** Film: Cars. (2006) Pixar animated adventure, with the voices of Owen Wilson and Paul Newman.

7.30 **Britain's Wildest Weather.** Footage of unusual weather conditions recorded in Britain during 2016, and exploring the factors that led to these incidents. The programme features footage recorded by people caught in the middle of floods, super-storms, tornadoes and lightning strikes, as well as a look at how a record level El Niño effect altered Britain's weather.

9.00 **Humans.** In the aftermath of the silo tragedy, Hester seeks revenge on Leo, while Karen decides she and Sam have no future, and decides to take matters into her own hands. Niska plans to return to Berlin with Astrid, but struggles with the idea of abandoning her family, and Joe makes a shocking confession to Laura. Last in the series.

10.00 **Gogglebox.** Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)

11.05 **Film: About a Boy.** (2002) A womaniser who poses as a father to meet single women changes his ways after befriending a lonely youngster. Romantic comedy, with Hugh Grant, Toni Collette and Nicholas Hoult.

12.55 **Film: Before I Go to Sleep.** (2014) A woman who cannot retain her memories tries to piece together her past, and fears her husband is hiding something from her. Thriller, starring Nicole Kidman and Colin Firth. **2.25** 60 Days in Jail. Jeff pursues a friendship with a duplicitous inmate and ends up in a dangerous situation. Zac receives a visit from his wife and Sam's feud with Barbara continues. (R) **3.20** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It (R) **4.15** Location, Location, Location. Kirstie Allsopp and (R) **5.10** Supershoppers. Claims of huge reductions by high-street discount stores. (R) **5.40** The King of Queens. Doug plans a Valentine's Day meal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Monkey. **6.05** Bop Box. (R) **6.10** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.25** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.40** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.50** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.00** Seaside Antics. (R) **7.05** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.15** Pip Ahoy! (R) **7.30** Little Princess. (R) **7.40** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.00** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.25** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **8.40** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.00** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.25** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.35** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.45** Jelly Jamm. (R) **10.00** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.00** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **11.30** The Gadget Show. (R) **12.30** Film: A Perfect Christmas List. (2014) Drama, starring Ellen Hollman.

2.15 **Film: Lost Letter Mysteries for Christmas.** (2014) Festive comedy, starring Eric Mabius. **4.00** Film: The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey. (2007) Family drama, starring Tom Berenger. **5.45** Film: Scrooge. (1970) Musical fantasy, starring Albert Finney.

8.00 **Michael Buble at Christmas.** The Canadian crooner's fifth festive special sees him take to the stage of the Orpheus Theatre in Los Angeles, with guest appearances by Celine Dion, Sharon Jones and the Dap-Kings, and Toni Kelly. The music features classics such as White Christmas, Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas, Jingle Bells, This Christmas and Here Comes Santa Claus. Michael also performs the premiere of his new Christmas song, The More You Give (The More You'll Have). (R)

8.55 **5 News Weekend.**

9.00 **Film: Hercules.** (2014) Premiere. The ancient Greek warrior becomes famous as highly exaggerated tales of his exploits spread throughout the land. He is forced to live up to his mythological status when he joins forces with a group of mercenaries to restore a deposed king to his rightful throne. Action adventure, starring Dwayne Johnson, Ian McShane and John Hurt. Includes 5 News at 10pm.

10.55 **Film: Snitch.** (2013) A man volunteers to become an undercover informant in a drug trafficking operation to save his son from prison. Crime thriller, starring Dwayne Johnson.

1.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** The Yorkshire Vet: Winter on the Moors. (R) **4.00** Now That's Funny! (R) **4.50** House Doctor. (R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Danielle de Niese: The Birth of an Opera **8.00** The Barber of Seville from Glyndebourne **10.45** Lucy Worsley: Mozart's London Odyssey **11.45** Horizon: Solar Storms – The Threat to Planet Earth **12.45** How to Build a Jumbo Jet Engine **1.45** Inside Porton Down: Britain's Secret Weapons Research Facility **2.45** How to Build Britain's Secret Engineers **3.45** Close

ITV2

12.20 You've Been Framed at Christmas! **1.20** The Smurfs: A Christmas Carol **1.45** Film: Santa Paws 2: The Santa Pups (2012) **3.40** Film: Mickey's Twice Upon a Christmas (2004) **5.05** Catchphrase Christmas Special **6.05** The X Factor Winner's Story **7.10** Film: The Amazing Spider-Man (2012) **10.00** Family Guy **11.55** American Dad! **12.55** The Cleveland Show **1.55** Bordertown **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

11.45 Agatha Christie's Marple **1.45** Film: Colombo: The Conspirators (1978) **3.45** Film: Casablanca (1942) **4.45** FYI Daily **4.50** Film: Casablanca (1942) **5.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.00** Meet the Penguins **9.00** Alexander Armstrong's Land of the Midnight Sun **10.00** Wycliffe **11.10** Film: Wimbledon (2004) **12.10** FYI Daily **12.15** Film: Wimbledon (2004) **1.05** Lewis **2.55** Wycliffe **3.45** May the Best House Win **5.30** You're Only Young Twice **5.55** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4

1.25 Film: Rio Bravo (1959) **4.15** Film: The Horse Soldiers (1959) **6.40** Film: Diamonds Are Forever (1971) **9.00** Film: The Deer Hunter (1978) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** Film: The Deer Hunter (1978) **12.45** Hell on Wheels **1.40** Quincy Me **2.45** Ironside **3.40** Tommy Cooper **4.10** The Wine Show

E4

12.00 Film: Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules (2011) **2.00** Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas **2.25** The Goldbergs **5.05** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part 2 (2012) **11.20** Tattoo Fixers **12.25** Gogglebox **1.30** The Inbetweeners **2.55** New Girl **3.45** Hollyoaks

Film4

11.00 Mr Popper's Penguins (2011) **1.00** The Tale of the Princess Kaguya (2013) **3.50** Miracle on 34th Street (1994) **6.05** The Karate Kid (2010) **9.00** Knight and Day (2010) **11.10** August: Osage County (2013) **1.30** Before the Devil Knows You're Dead (2007) **3.50** Close

Changes to your Christmas bin collections

Your usual collection date	Christmas collection date
Monday 26 December	Tuesday 27 December
Tuesday 27 December	Wednesday 28 December
Wednesday 28 December	Thursday 29 December
Thursday 29 December	Friday 30 December
Friday 30 December	Saturday 31 December
Monday 2 January	Tuesday 3 January
Tuesday 3 January	Wednesday 4 January
Wednesday 4 January	Thursday 5 January
Thursday 5 January	Friday 6 January
Friday 6 January	Saturday 7 January

One day later than usual

The tip at Shidas Lane, Oldbury, is open 8am-4pm every day. The only days it will close are Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Garden waste collections are having a break for the winter. There will be no green bin collections from 5 December until 24 February.

www.sandwell.gov.uk/binday

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

serco

Collections will return to normal from Monday 9 January 2017

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

A Christmas Reunion, Channel 5, 5.15pm

High-flying executive Amy inherits half of her aunt's bakery, but the catch is the remaining share has been left to her former high-school sweetheart. The pair are reunited in their home town just in time to organise the annual Christmas cookie contest. Romantic drama, starring Denise Richards and Jake Busey. (2015)

TUESDAY

Forgetting Sarah Marshall, ITV, 10.40pm

A musician is devastated when his actress girlfriend leaves him, and he tries to cure his broken heart with a holiday in Hawaii. Unfortunately, his efforts to forget the past are scuppered when his ex turns out to be staying at the same resort with her new boyfriend – a successful rock star – in tow. Romantic comedy, starring Jason Segel and Kristen Bell. (2008)



Saving Mr Banks, Friday, BBC2, 8.30pm

WEDNESDAY

Wanted, ITV, 10.40pm

A disillusioned man learns his father was a member of a secret society of superpowered assassins dedicated to eliminating people who are destined to commit acts of evil in the future. Having inherited his father's special abilities, he is recruited into the organisation and must take on a former member who has betrayed it. Action adventure, starring James McAvoy, Angelina Jolie and Morgan Freeman. (2008)

THURSDAY

Alan Partridge: Alpha Papa, BBC2, 11.05pm

The hapless local radio DJ ends up in the centre of a crisis when a colleague gets fired by the station's new owners, only to respond by returning to the studio with a shotgun and taking hostages. The police enlist Alan's aid as a negotiator, giving him the chance to revive his own flagging public profile. Comedy, starring Steve Coogan and Sean Pertwee. (2013)

FRIDAY

Saving Mr Banks, BBC2, 8.30pm

Premiere. Walt Disney tries to persuade the creator of Mary Poppins to part with the movie rights to her beloved creation. Fact-based drama, with Emma Thompson, Tom Hanks, Paul Giamatti and Colin Farrell. (2013)

Series proves it is far from an amateur affair

They say that roles for people of a certain age are rare, and that if you're an actress over the age of 40, you may as well forget it.

Well, try telling that to Sally Wainwright, the woman behind two of the BBC's biggest drama hits of the last five years – Happy Valley and Last Tango in Halifax.

The former won't be back on our screens for a couple of years, apparently, because Wainwright is so busy working on other projects, but it's provided Sarah Lancashire, who is 52, with arguably the best role of her career, that of gritty policewoman Catherine Cawood.

She also appears in Last Tango and has been Bafta-nominated for both parts (winning for Happy Valley in 2014).

"When you read Sally's scripts, they're not like scripts, they're like transcripts of people's lives and they breathe immediately," says Lancashire of Wainwright's work. "Her words do it for you, you don't have to think about it too much; in

fact it's often best to let her writing do it for you. She's just top of her game really."

But Lancashire isn't the only actor to benefit from Wainwright's Last Tango – its leads are portrayed by Anne Reid (81) and Derek Jacobi (78), while Nicola Walker (46) also appears.

If you haven't caught the series by now, what have you been doing? You've certainly been missing a treat – the tale of seventysomething former teenage sweethearts Alan and Celia finding love again after 60 years apart is touching, moving and, at times, hilarious. It's also inspired by Wainwright's own mother who reconnected with an old flame she hadn't seen since she was 15.

It's almost two years since we last caught up with them, and this new, two-part episode picks up where the previous series left off, with Celia's daughter Caroline (Lancashire) still coming to terms with the death of her wife Kate.

Perhaps it's her struggle to cope that inspires Caroline to consider a

fresh start away from the Harrogate home she shares with Alan and Celia. Regular viewers will be aware that Caroline bought her ex-husband out of the property with financial help from her mother and stepfather – so where will her decision to move on leave them?

For now, that remains a mystery, and the couple don't seem unduly concerned about their fate either – perhaps because they are too wrapped up in the local amateur dramatics group to notice; Celia's debut in a leading role in Noel Coward's Blithe Spirit seems to be taking all their time, attention and energy.

Meanwhile, somebody should keep an eye on Alan's daughter Gillian. She's a bit of a loose cannon at the best of times, but she seems to be sailing close to the edge as mysterious goings-on in her farm's barn lead her to believe that the past is coming back to haunt her.

The concluding part airs on Tuesday, but there is some good news – a fourth is on its way.



Derek Jacobi stars in Last Tango in Halifax, Monday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Sir Lenny Henry – A Life on Screen BBC2, 9pm

When Lenny Henry won the New Faces talent show in 1975, those watching probably never expected him to go on to be an acclaimed Shakespearean actor and knight of the realm. In fact, we boldly suggest that Henry himself probably thought that such a twist in his life and career seemed highly unlikely. But during his 41 years in the public eye, Sir Lenworth George Henry, to give him his full name, has used his talents in a wide variety of genres, from comedy to drama, to writing and stand-up, not to mention TV presenting, music and, of course, Shakespeare. As a result, Henry fully deserves this tribute to his career, which features clips from various projects, as well as interviews with friends and colleagues, and with the man himself.

TUESDAY

Hilda Ogden's Last Ta-ra – A Tribute to Jean Alexander ITV, 8pm

They may have moved out of Coronation Street in 1987 after a 23-year stint, but Hilda Ogden remains one of British soap's most iconic characters. So it's only fitting that ITV is paying tribute to the actress who played her, Jean Alexander, who died in

October. The documentary features contributions from former colleagues William Roache, Michael Le Vell and Sally Dynevor, who also enjoy watching classic moments in a special recreation of Stan and Hilda Ogden's famous living room. Younger members of the Corrie cast also celebrate Hilda's legacy and famous fans, including Paul O'Grady, provide their own memories.

WEDNESDAY

This Time Next Year ITV, 8pm

Davina McCall meets Rebecca and Richard Francis from Camarthen in Wales who are hoping to finally be able to extend their family and have a child. After suffering a number of miscarriages and unsure if this is linked to Rebecca's diabetes, the couple are hoping a new treatment method will allow them to finally have the baby they long for. The presenter also meets Luke Reeson who was hoping to make the GB Paralympic swim team and head to Rio. The 27-year-old from Cumbria took up swimming after suffering a gunshot wound to his leg and groin whilst serving in Afghanistan and found a new

career path. Will Luke be able to achieve his dream and earn a place on Team GB?

THURSDAY

Who Do You Think You Are? BBC1, 8pm

The Royle Family star Ricky Tomlinson sets out to trace his family tree.

The actor is well known for playing the archetypal scouser – and it turns out his Liverpool roots run deep. Ricky discovers that he comes from generations of carters, who transported goods on Liverpool's docks when the city was the British Empire's busiest port. Ricky's rage and sorrow grow as he discovers how dangerous conditions were for his ancestors, early echoing his own fight for workers' rights as a trade unionist in the 1970s.

Hilda Ogden's Last Ta-ra – A Tribute to Jean Alexander, Tuesday, ITV, 8pm

FRIDAY

Strictly Len Goodman BBC1, 7pm

It's the end of a Strictly era – head judge Len Goodman is hanging up his 'seven' paddle and stepping down from the panel. We'll still get to see him offer his opinions on the Christmas special, but this programme serves as his goodbye as he looks back over his time on Strictly – and seeing as he's been there since the first episode, it also functions as a history of one of Britain's most popular shows. Few people could have guessed when the pro-celebrity ballroom challenge began in 2004 as part of Sport Relief that it would become such a ratings juggernaut, turning the judges and many of the professional dancers into celebrities in their own right. Here, some of the cast members past and present share their memories of the Strictly experience – and Len.

Wild Tales from the Village

BBC2, 7.30pm

Documentary following the animals that live near a remote rural French village, including red squirrels, dormice and stone martens. As the wildlife struggles to survive the winter, they take full advantage of living so close to unsuspecting humans in their search for food, while trying not to be detected.

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BRAIN GYM No.408

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

14	12	22	6	12	9		5	20	12	22	6	15
	15		18		18		20		7			22
	9		25	12	24	26	18	12	26	22	2	10
26	17	1	16	24	26		16					24
	17		8		9		6					2
	7	26	16	21	17	15	15		15	2	16	17
4		16				20			16			1
12	23	17	15		26	17	19	18	17	13	15	
26			24		17		12		19		9	
16			12		3		26		12	9	12	15
5	20	12	8	24	18	21	18	17	1		19	
20			11		25		17		17		17	
17	23	2	12	9	17		15	12	1	18	15	25

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

C	S	K	H	N	P	T	U	B	J	A	X	R
E	F	L	Z	Y	O	M	W	G	I	Q	D	V

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 1. Helps to define the goal of angry lawyers (8)
- 5. Pick out the place (4)
- 9. It turns on an opponent (4)
- 10. Subdued, having arrived after it's finished (8)
- 11. Wordy form of gift (5)
- 12. Horsemen surround a group of attackers (7)
- 13. Device that should catch on, if handled properly (9,4)
- 18. Gives information which could lead to making an arrest (8)
- 19. French girl returns if encored (4)
- 20. Understand and cash in (7)
- 21. A rash sort of girl (5)
- 22. The ultimate in saltshakers (4)
- 23. Living wages? (8)

Down

- 2. Sounds like a private bitterness that's harboured (7)
- 3. It's important to one's standing as a rider (7)
- 4. Meet and strive to make some display (13)
- 6. One in a seaside feature breaks new ground (7)
- 7. Crime that no tears can undo (7)
- 8. Making an attempt to be difficult (6)
- 13. Not a specific officer (7)
- 14. Overhead lines (7)
- 15. Serene number in tartan (6)
- 16. Ian felt unusually swell (7)
- 17. Casual worker not on duty (3-4)

1	2	3		4		5	6	7
					8			
9				10				
11					12			
13		14		15			16	17
18							19	
20						21		
22				23				

Quick Clues:

Across

- 1. For common use (8)
- 5. Lave (4)
- 9. Sharp (4)
- 10. Pertinent (8)
- 11. Soothes (5)
- 12. Building (7)
- 13. Alluring beauty (13)
- 18. Upright (8)
- 19. Pit (4)
- 20. Income (7)
- 21. Wrath (5)
- 22. Sediment (4)
- 23. Remembered (8)

Down

- 2. Total (7)
- 3. Least (7)
- 4. Retaliation (2,3,3,2,3)
- 6. Greed (7)
- 7. Heat (7)
- 8. Careless (6)
- 13. Rules (7)
- 14. Coming (7)
- 15. East (6)
- 16. Titular (7)
- 17. Genuine (7)

Sudoku

	9						8	
		3			9	6		7
1				4		2		5
		4	1		5			
5	2				3		6	
		9	8		2	1		
4		7	3					6
		8	5			7	4	
	6				4		3	

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	2	9	1	8	5	3	6	7
1	6	5	4	7	3	9	2	8
7	3	8	6	2	9	4	1	5
5	7	3	2	6	4	8	9	1
8	4	6	7	9	1	5	3	2
2	9	1	3	5	8	7	4	6
3	1	7	8	4	2	6	5	9
6	5	4	9	1	7	2	8	3
9	8	2	5	3	6	1	7	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Blench; 4 Hither; 9 Keep open house; 10 Natural; 11 Beech; 12 Jiffy; 14 Stare; 18 Amour; 19 Outcast; 21 Regimentation; 22 Tenant; 23 Stages. Down: 1 Baking; 2 Electric organ; 3 Choir; 5 Inhabit; 6 Housebreaking; 7 Re-echo; 8 Bells; 13 Fireman; 15 Carrot; 16 Bound; 17 Stands; 20 Tract. QUICK - Across: 1 Riddle; 4 Abound; 9 Dispassionate; 10 Clotted; 11 Incur; 12 Ducat; 14 Shame; 18 Erect; 19 Radiant; 21 Premeditation; 22 Resist; 23 Heyday. Down: 1 Reduce; 2 Dissoluteness; 3 Least; 5 Bookish; 6 Unaccompanied; 7 Dreary; 8 Aside; 13 Artless; 15 Helper; 16 Frail; 17 Stingy; 20 Drape.

Quiz

- 1. How many gallons are there in a bushel?
- 2. With which composer is the Malvern Festival associated?
- 3. Who succeeded Robin Cook as Foreign Secretary in 2001?
- 4. The Lourdes shrine is a shrine to which saint?
- 5. What is a mandrill?
- 6. Who won a Victoria Cross for leading the Dam Busters' raid?
- 7. Which journalist wrote Princess In Love with the assistance of James Hewitt?
- 8. Of which range do the Tatra Mountains form a part?
- 9. What was Holy Roman Emperor Frederick I's nickname?
- 10. In medicine, what does the acronym SIDS stand for?

Last week's solutions:

- Quiz: 1 Mitford sisters; 2 Sea lion; 3 Japan;
- 4 Arnold Wesker; 5 Modulator-demodulator;
- 6 Uma Thurman; 7 Plato; 8 City of London;
- 9 Requiescat in pace; 10 St James.
- Niner: ATROPHIES

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

- 56123 gives an African country,
- 4382564 gives a Eurasian country,
- 97365482 gives a Latin American country.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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The Lowry houses a gallery dedicated to the artist's work and two theatres



Salford Quays in all its night-time splendour



The Imperial War Museum North is a must-see attraction for Quays visitors



The Lowry Outlet mall is popular with shoppers

Nothing to match this Lowry spot as the Quay to brush up on history

By Mark Shipp

SO I saw this fellow in Manchester with a picture frame and asked him where he'd got it. "It fell off the back of a Lowry," he said.

Welcome to Salford, where the artist is key – or should that be quay? – to a great deal of what this corner of the north west has to offer.

Home to MediaCityUK, where 27,000 BBC staff are employed, and where ITV favourites such as Coronation Street are filmed, Salford Quays is a big draw.

An idyllic waterside destination, it boasts entertainment, arts culture, a myriad of places to eat and shop and attracts around seven million visitors a year, bringing in £400m to the local economy.

Located alongside the Manchester Ship Canal, the quays has a gallery dedicated to

the work of the painter LS Lowry, who has many pieces depicting the city's industrial landscape. It's a fascinating insight into his life and works, with video footage to boot. Visitors will see that there was more to the artist than his matchstick men figures, with seascapes a particular feature.

The Lowry also houses two theatres and a drama studio. With its 1,730 seats, the Lyric also has the largest stage of any UK theatre outside London. My partner and I were treated to a show at the smaller venue, The Quays, with the terrific Opus 7 combining circus acts with accomplished musicianship.

For our short break, we stayed at the four-star Copthorne Hotel, enjoying its comfortable rooms and views overlooking the quayside. It is ideally located, being less than a mile away from the top tourist at-

tractions, which also include the Imperial War Museum North and the Lowry shopping outlet, housing the likes of M&S, Body Shop and Gap.

Just a short walk across the canal took us to all these major sights. But if football is your thing, you cannot escape the shadow of Old Trafford – home to the Salford lot, as I like to call them.

Rooftop

There, fans can enjoy the Manchester United Museum and tour, while Hotel Football, the world's first soccer-themed hotel is located opposite the stadium and offers matchday hospitality and a rooftop football pitch.

The award-winning Imperial War Museum North is an absolute must, particularly in such a poignant year of the Battle of the Somme's centenary. From a timeline

of conflicts, to talks and displays, it provides an important lesson for children, to learn of the sacrifices made and about genuine times of hardship and fighting spirit.

The exhibition, Fashion on the Ration: 1940s street style gave a glimpse at military uniforms and how civilians dressed throughout the decade.

Further sightseeing is on offer with cruises along the canal. And if venturing into Manchester itself, call in at Ziferblat.

A Russian concept, Ziferblat is a pay-as-you-go cafe where everything is free, except for the time spent in there. For 6p a minute, one can help themselves to as much tea, cake and biscuits as they want, chill out with their laptops or even play board games. But do your own washing up.

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Christmas TV

Your essential 12-page festive programme guide

Holmes and Watson return



Drama to be found in Soapland



Special Strictly sees stars dazzle



Animated delight for all to enjoy

Best of Christmas TV

Festive film guide

Magic mix of movie treats

Scrooged (1988)

(CHRISTMAS EVE, CHANNEL 4, 2.45PM)

Frank Cross (Bill Murray) is a ruthless TV executive who only thinks of the festive season in terms of ratings.

This year, he's pinning his hopes on a gimmick-laden live version of A Christmas Carol (complete with a terrifying trailer), little guessing that he's about to find himself staring in his own personal version.

No one does cynicism quite like Murray, and he's on fine form in this updating of Charles Dickens' classic tale. It may never reach the heights of the not-altogether-dissimilar Groundhog Day, but in addition to Murray, there are scene-stealing turns from David Johansen and Carol Kane as the Ghosts of Christmas Past and Present respectively.

And if someone wants to make a full-length version of the TV movie-within-a-movie The Night the Reindeer Died, we'd probably watch that as well.



Bill Murray and Carol Kane in the film Scrooged

The Lady in the Van (2015)

(CHRISTMAS EVE, BBC2, 9.00PM)

Playwright Alan Bennett (Alex Jennings) moves into a house in Camden – and soon after, a cantankerous woman called Miss Shepherd (Dame Maggie Smith) settles in the same street in her ramshackle vehicle.

Alan foolishly agrees to let her take up temporary residence on his driveway. Months turn into years and the playwright despairs as he becomes Miss Shepherd's guardian and suffers regular visits from interfering social services worker Miss Briscoe (Cecilia Noble).

Teasingly billed as "a mostly true story", The Lady In The Van is an entertaining screen adaptation of Bennett's award-winning 1999 stage work. Smith reprises her theatre role as the eponymous tramp, unleashing an array of withering putdowns that would surely have her imperious Dowager in Downton Abbey clucking with approval.



The Lady in the Van stars Dame Maggie Smith

Frozen (2013)

(CHRISTMAS DAY, BBC1, 3.10PM)

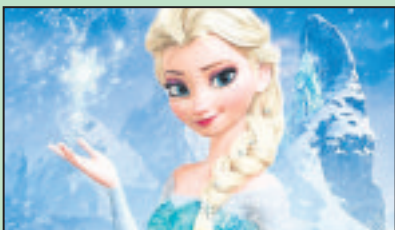
As children, Anna (voiced by Kristen Bell) and Elsa (Idina Menzel) love to play together, taking full advantage of Elsa's ability to create ice and snow from her fingertips.

When an accident almost ends in disaster, the King (Maurice LaMarche) agrees to wipe Anna's memory so she forgets about her sibling's hidden talents.

At the same time, Elsa hides from the public gaze, fearful that she will hurt someone else with her powers. When the King and Queen are subsequently lost at sea, Elsa reluctantly emerges to claim the throne.

Unfortunately, on her coronation day, her gloves come off and the locals witness her skills... Frozen is one of the best animated features to canter out of the Disney stable in years.

Bell and Menzel add vim to their plucky heroines, the latter singing the film's stand-out song Let It Go.



Disney's massive hit Frozen premieres on BBC1



To Walk Invisible – Anne, Emily and Charlotte Bronte



Martin Kemp features in the Birds of a Feather special



Sherlock returns to our screens on New Year's Day

Feast for the

Catherine Stanworth

THE countdown is officially on – with Radio Times' legendary double Christmas issue having finally hit the newsstands, it's time to get your fingers flexed to grab your pen and plan your festive viewing, AND your tactics on how to take control of the remote!

Every channel in the UK has pulled their absolute best out of the hat to fill the festive TV schedules this year.

We've picked out some of the best programmes on during Christmas 2016 in the UK, complete with confirmed broadcast times.

From Christmas staples like Strictly Come Dancing to tempting foody offerings like Jamie's Ultimate Christmas to great dramas including Sherlock, Doctor Who, Call the Midwife, Grantchester and more, there's something for everyone this year.

So, without further ado, check out our tempting TV taster below:-

Birds Of A Feather
(Christmas Eve, ITV, 8pm)

In a feature-length special, Sharon Theodopolopodous, Tracey Stubbs and Dorian Green leave Essex behind to make a beeline for Tangier, on an African adventure that sees them kidnapped, stranded in the desert and bumping into a familiar face. Stars Pauline Quirke, Linda Robson and Lesley Joseph have already hinted there's plenty of slapstick – involving camels – in store!

Grantchester
(Christmas Eve, ITV, 9pm)

Everyone's favourite vicar, Sidney Chambers (James Norton), is rushed off his feet with festive duties when we catch up with him for the Grantchester Christmas special.

On the plus side, this leaves him little time to contemplate a life without his beloved Amanda (Morven Christie), an impossibility given his profession. There's also a murder at the winter wedding to keep him and Georgie (Robson Green) occupied.

Doctor Who
(Christmas Day, BBC1, 5.45pm)

Doctor Who's now staple viewing at Christmas, not least this year, as there's been something of a drought. In this one-off, the Doctor (Peter Capaldi) teams up with an investigative journalist, played by Charity Wakefield, and a comic-book superhero, portrayed by Justin Chatwin, to save New York from a deadly alien threat.

Look out for Little Britain's Matt Lucas, who also makes an appearance.

The Last Dragonslayer
(Christmas Day, Sky1, 5.45pm)

Look forward to a world where fire-breathing dragons, magic and wizards co-exist with televisions and supermarkets, in the feature-length adventure The Last Dragonslayer, based on the novel by Jasper Fforde.

Set against a familiar backdrop, akin to contemporary Britain, called the Ununited Kingdom, it blends the medieval and modern as the heroine of the story, Jennifer Strange (Ellise Chappell), is thrust reluctantly into the messy and dangerous business of dragonslaying.

Ricky Tomlinson and John Bradley also star.



Strictly Come Dancing marks the festive season with a Christmas Special, shown Christmas Day at 6.45pm



Comedy with the two sirs – Ian McKellen and Derek Jacobi

Strictly Come Dancing Christmas Special
(Christmas Day, BBC1, 6.45pm)

Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman host the festive special, which sees six contestants from previous series returning to the dance floor.

Olympian and presenter Denise Lewis, pop star Frankie Bridge, writer and actress Pamela Stephenson, celebrity chef Ainsley Harriott, TV presenter Gethin Jones and radio and TV host Melvin Odoom will be showing off their fancy festive footwork under the watchful eye of judges Craig Revel Horwood, Darcey Bussell, Bruno Tonioli and Len Goodman, making his farewell appearance on the show. Matt Goss (a participant

in the Christmas 2013 show) performs his rendition of White Christmas.

Call The Midwife
(Christmas Day, BBC1, 8pm)

This Christmas, the nuns of Nonnatus House are swapping East London for the sunnier climes of South Africa, when they set out to help a small mission hospital through a challenging time.

Sinead Cusack joins the cast, playing Dr Myra Fitzsimmons, who runs the threat-ened Jenny Agutter, as regular stars, including Jenny Agutter, Linda Bassett, Helen George and Charlotte Ritchie, endeavour to sprinkle a little cheer on their travels to another continent.



The cast of Call the Midwife return for a sixth series

Maigret's Dead Man
(Christmas Day, ITV, 9pm)

Christmas isn't Christmas without a classic whodunnit. Following the success of Maigret Sets A Trap, which aired at Easter, Rowan Atkinson returns as the legendary French fictional detective Jules Maigret in the ever so cheerily-titled Dead Man.

Allow yourself to be transported to Fifties Paris, as the pipe-smoking gent sets out to solve another murder mystery.

West Side Stories: The Making Of A Classic
(Boxing Day, BBC2, 5.20pm)

Bruno Tonioli's best-known for his over-the-top judging on Strictly Come Dancing,



Outnumbered returns and the kids have grown up

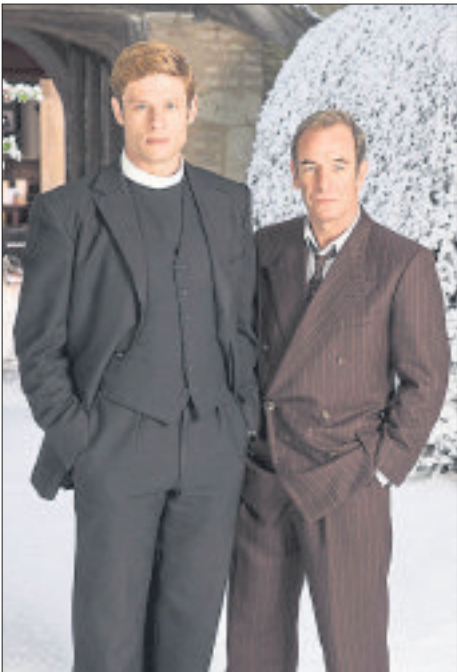


Magical – The Last Dragonslayer promises to be a hit



Rowan Atkinson stars in Maigret's Dead Man

festive eyes



Grantchester feature James Norton and Robson Green



Peter Capaldi reprises his role as Doctor Who



Jamie Oliver brings us his Ultimate Christmas



Last Tango in Halifax Christmas Special



West Side Stories – The Making of a Classic, shown Boxing Day



Ethel and Ernest get married on December 28

Action from the soaps

Mix of drama and laughter

EastEnders (BBC1)

The residents of Albert Square are about to receive a visit from the Ghost of Christmas Past – otherwise known as Max Branning.
But is he back to hand out a few presents and see his family, or is he still bearing a grudge about the fact that half the Square stood back and let him go to prison for a crime they knew he didn't commit?
Elsewhere, Shirley attempts to nag some sense into Phil, while the Mitchells face up to the reality that this could be his last Christmas.
Denise's plans for a peaceful festive season are ruined when Patrick invites Derek over and Kim tells their mum about the pregnancy.



Max Branning is back in Walford this Christmas

Emmerdale (ITV)

Last Christmas, Zak gave Joanie his heart, but this year it looks like she might have to return it to its rightful owner, Lisa.
Joanie certainly suspects that's what Zak wants when they call in at his ex's to wish Belle a happy birthday and he seems reluctant to leave again. And when Belle then plays a recording on her new laptop, it's clear where Zak's heart really lies. As a hurt Joanie storms out, will Zak follow her or will he take the chance to win back Lisa?
Meanwhile, if any family in Emmerdale deserves a happy Christmas, it's the Thomases, and it looks like they might get one when they receive a surprise.



Big decision – should Zak be with Lisa or Joanie?

Coronation Street (ITV)

Here's a Christmas treat for us all: Our Toyah's back on the cobbles!
Unfortunately, she isn't bringing any good cheer with her – she announces her marriage is over because she's been having an affair. That means that Leanne, Nick and Simon can't spend the big day with her in Liverpool, so Ken insists they join the Barlows instead.
That would be a good idea if it weren't for the simmering tension between Peter and Nick, which boils up into a fight.
Later, after Toyah has a tense meeting with her husband Toby and Leanne is taken to hospital with a headache, Simon's drone spots Peter kissing his new girlfriend – can you guess who she is?
Bethany's crush on Gary becomes common knowledge.
The mortified teenager takes an overdose.



Toyah seeks help from her Corrie sister, Leanne

Hollyoaks (Channel 4)

As Sienna heads to the memorial garden to bury Nico's ashes, she finds a wooden cross with the words 'Sienna Blake, RIP January 3, 2017' painted on.
Tension between Mac and Marnie leads Lisa to the conclusion that her night with Mac has been exposed. She confides in Cleo that she is going to end her relationship with Nathan, but will she actually go through with it?

but he's set to show a more serious side when he co-presents a documentary on the much-loved musical West Side Story with Suzy Klein.
Ahead of the show's 60th anniversary next year, the pair go in search of the true stories behind its inception. The BBC Symphony Orchestra and singers bring to life the musical's memorable songs.

Outnumbered (Boxing Day, BBC1, 10pm)
The Brockmans return to the small screen after almost three years away for this festive catch-up. It's Boxing Day and the family have to carry out a special mission for Grandad. As usual things don't go their

way as they are beset by car problems, child problems, parent problems, emotional problems and the Second World War.
It's up to Pete and Sue to put things right – but if they cannot do it, then it seems the kids will just have to sort things out instead. Hugh Dennis and Claire Skinner star, with Tiger Drew-Honey, Daniel Roche and Ramona Marquez.
Ethel & Ernest (December 28, BBC1, 7.30pm)
Following its theatrical release in October, BBC1 will air the animated feature film Ethel & Ernest, an adaptation of Raymond Briggs' award-winning graphic novel.
The story's a tribute to his parents, voiced

by Jim Broadbent and Brenda Blethyn in the title roles, and follows their four decades of marriage from the late-Twenties to the early-Seventies. There wasn't a dry eye in the place when it was shown on the big screen, so prepare for this poignant tale to leave you blubbing.
To Walk Invisible (December 29, BBC1, 9pm)
Sally Wainwright, the scribe behind such successes as Last Tango in Halifax and Happy Valley, has written and directed a one-off drama about the Bronte sisters, "three fascinating, talented, ingenious Yorkshire women", she says, whose personal lives were as intriguing as their writing.

The drama takes a closer look at the siblings Emily, Charlotte and Anne, played by Chloe Pirrie, Finn Atkins and Charlie Murphy, whose genius work continues to enrapture readers.
Sherlock (New Years Day, BBC1, 9pm)
Expected to be a record-breaking New Year's Day special, Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman return as Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson for three new episodes, and going by the teaser trailer, it's set to be action-packed. Expect helicopters, explosions and Sherlock menacingly musing, "Something's coming, maybe it's Moriarty, maybe it's not..."

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Christmas Eve

BBC 1	BBC 2	ITV	Ch4	Ch5
<p>Michael McIntyre's Big Christmas Show, shown at 7.25pm</p> <p>6.00 Breakfast A round-up of national and international news, plus sports reports, weather forecasts and arts and entertainment features. Including NewsWatch at 7.45. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen 11.30 FILM: A Christmas Carol (2009) Animated fantasy, starring Jim Carrey. ★★ 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.15 Winter: Earth's Seasonal Secrets Documentary exploring how various animals rise to the challenge of surviving winter. 2.15 FILM: The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian (2008) The four Pevensie children return to the magical land of Narnia to help the rightful king reclaim his throne. Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Ben Barnes and William Moseley. ★★★</p>	<p>Rowan Williams features in Carols from King's, shown at 5.45pm</p> <p>6.15 FILM: Mars Needs Moms (2011) Animated sci-fi adventure, with the voice of Seth Robert Dusk. ★★ 7.40 The NFL Show (R) 8.10 FILM: Hans Christian Andersen (1952) Musical, starring Danny Kaye. ★★★ 10.00 Robot Wars Dara O Briain and Angela Scanlon present the final. (R) 11.00 Wallace & Gromit: A Close Shave (R) 11.30 Nigella's Christmas Kitchen (R) 12.00 The Cook Who Changed Our Lives A profile of Milanese cook and food writer Anna Del Conte. (R) 1.00 FILM: Splash! (1984) Romantic fantasy comedy, with Tom Hanks and Daryl Hannah. ★★ 2.45 Snow Chick: A Penguin's Tale Following the first months in the life of an emperor penguin. (R)</p>	<p>David Walliams hosts the game show, Blankety Blank, on at 6.30pm</p> <p>6.00 CITY: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids (R) 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids (R) 6.20 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures (R) 6.45 Super 4 (R) 6.55 Signed Stories (R) 7.05 Spooky (R) 7.10 Oddbods (R) 7.15 Oddbods (R) 7.25 Nerds & Monsters (R) 7.40 Nerds & Monsters (R) 7.55 Horrid Henry (R) 8.10 Horrid Henry (R) 8.25 Weekend at Christmas 9.25 Thunderbirds Are Go 9.50 The Chase (R) 10.50 You've Been Framed! With Bells On (R) 11.20 FILM: Despicable Me (2010) ★★ 1.20 ITV News and Weather; Weather. 1.30 FILM: Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (2001) Fantasy adventure, starring Daniel Radcliffe. ★★</p>	<p>Alex Zane presents Rude Tube Christmas Cracker 2016, on at 10.00pm</p> <p>6.15 Olive, the Other Reindeer Animation, with the voice of Drew Barrymore. (R) 7.05 FILM: A Turtle's Tale: Sammy's Adventures (2010) ★★ 8.40 Father Christmas (R) 9.10 Painting the Bear Hunt 9.15 Christmas Brunch With guests Tom Fletcher, Bill Turnbull, Emilia Fox and James Acaster. 12.15 Jamie's Ultimate Christmas Jamie Oliver demonstrates dishes for the festive season. (R) 1.15 The Simpsons Three festive shorts with the animated family. (R) 1.45 The Simpsons Four tales celebrating the festive season. (R) 2.15 The Simpsons A corporation buys Springfield Elementary School. (R) 2.45 FILM: Scrooged (1988) Comedy, starring Bill Murray. ★★</p>	<p>Eamonn Holmes, Eamonn & Ruth: A Million Pound Christmas, on at 9.00pm</p> <p>6.00 Milkshake! 8.30 SpongeBob SquarePants Plankton tries to ruin Christmas with a special fruitcake that brings out the dark side of anyone who eats it. 9.05 FILM: Doctor Zhivago (1965) A physician is torn between loyalty to his wife and his love for another woman during the Russian Revolution. David Lean's epic drama, starring Omar Sharif and Julie Christie. Edited for language. ★★★★★ 12.50 FILM: The Vikings (1958) A Norse warrior fights to claim the Northumbrian throne, unaware his rival for the crown is really his half-brother. Adventure, starring Kirk Douglas, Tony Curtis, Janet Leigh, Ernest Borgnine, James Donald, Alexander Knox, Maxine Audley and Frank Thring. ★★★★★</p>
<p>4.30 Shrek the Halls (R) 4.50 Penguins of Madagascar (2014) ★★ 6.15 BBC News 6.25 Midlands Today; Weather 6.30 Pointless Celebrities 7.25 Michael McIntyre's Big Christmas Show Michael puts a festive spin on his weekend variety entertainment show, with live performances by Alfie Boe, Michael Ball, Catherine Tate and Harry Enfield. 8.25 EastEnders Phil is given some tough love by both Shirley and Denise, Linda receives devastating family news and Dot closes up for the final time. Donna is touched by a dinner invitation. 9.00 David Walliams Celebrates Dame Shirley Bassey The comedy actor hosts this special evening of entertainment in which the veteran singer performs some of her best-loved songs and looks back on her 60 years in showbusiness. 10.05 Peter Kay's Christmas Comedy Shuffle A festive collection of clips from the comedian's TV career, featuring highlights from Car Share and Phoenix Nights, as well as a seasonal singalong with Paul McCartney. 10.50 The Vicar of Dibley Alice suggests an unconventional nativity play starring herself and Hugo as Mary and Joseph, and adds an extra touch of authenticity by going into labour mid-performance. (R) 11.30 BBC News; Weather. 11.45 Midnight Mass: from St Chad's Birmingham The Most Rev Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham, leads a Christmas Eve Midnight Mass broadcast live from St Chad's Cathedral. 1.00 FILM: Surviving Christmas (2004) ★ 2.25 Weather for the Week Ahead 2.30 BBC News</p>	<p>3.45 Gorilla Family and Me Part one of two. Gordon Buchanan spends time with Grauer's gorillas. (R) 4.45 Gorilla Family and Me Part two of two. Gordon Buchanan revisits the apes. (R) 5.45 Carols from King's The traditional annual carol service at the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge. 7.00 Dad's Army Mainwaring's men face the might of a rival platoon in a battle to prove their worth. Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier play the superannuated soldiers. (R) 8.00 Alan Bennett's Diaries A candid profile of the writer, following him in his home village in Yorkshire, to his community library in Primrose Hill and during a trip to New York. 9.00 The Lady in the Van (2015) Premiere. The true story of Alan Bennett's friendship with an eccentric homeless woman, whom he befriended before allowing her to park her van outside his Camden home. Starring Maggie Smith and Alex Jennings. ★★★★★ 10.40 The National Lottery Live The all-important winning numbers are revealed. 10.50 Christmas TOTP2 Special Mark Radcliffe presents festive performances from the Top of the Pops archive, including classics by Slade, Wham!, Wizzard, East 17, Mud, the Jackson 5 and Johnny Mathis. (R) 12.20 FILM: Viva Las Vegas (1964) A racing driver arrives in the gambling capital for a grand prix - but loses focus when he falls in love while working at a casino. Musical, starring Elvis Presley and Ann-Margret. ★★ 1.40 Sign Zone: Countryfile Christmas special from Bamburgh Castle on the Northumberland Coast. (R) 2.40 Sign Zone: Holby City A blast from the past upsets Dom's plans for festivities with Isaac. (R) 3.40 This Is BBC Two Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC Two.</p>	<p>4.20 One Hundred and One Dalmatians (1961) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Betty Lou Gerson. ★★★★★ 6.00 ITV News Central; Weather. 6.15 ITV News and Weather 6.30 Blankety Blank David Walliams presents a one-off special revival of the 1970s game show in which contestants and a panel of celebrities must identify the missing word in a phrase. 7.30 Coronation Street Aidan admits to Johnny he is in love with Maria while she heads to court, and Nick feels left out as Peter and Leanne reflect on old times. 8.00 Birds of a Feather Sharon, Tracey and Dorian head to Morocco to track down Travis when he goes missing while on his gap year. Comedy, starring Pauline Quirke, Linda Robson and Lesley Joseph. 9.00 Grantchester Christmas Special A bride-to-be reports the disappearance of her groom on their wedding day, drawing Sidney and Georgie into a case with echoes of an unsolved murder from nine years previously. 10.30 Through the Keyhole Keith Lemon hosts a Christmas special of the game show, as celebrity panellists Shayne Ward, Kelly Brook and Johnny Vegas are asked to identify the homes of the rich and famous. 11.30 ITV News and Weather; Weather. 11.45 Christmas Carols on ITV Aled Jones joins the congregation of St Chad's church in Rochdale for their traditional candlelight Christmas Eve carol service. 12.40 All Star Mr & Mrs Christmas Special (R) 1.30 FILM: Carry On Loving (1970) Comedy, starring Sid James and Hattie Jacques. ★★ 3.05 ITV Nightscreen Text-based information service.</p>	<p>4.40 Channel 4 News 4.45 The Snowman (R) 5.15 The Snowman and the Snowdog (R) 5.50 The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992) ★★ 7.30 We're Going on a Bear Hunt Animated adventure, based on Michael Rosen's popular children's story of the same name, featuring the voice of Olivia Colman. 8.00 Gogglesprogs Christmas Special Young TV viewers appraise the year's television programmes in this festive edition, from big news stories about the American Presidential election to TV's most popular hits. 9.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown Christmas Special Jimmy Carr hosts a festive edition of the comedy panel show, with guests Kathy Burke and Russell Howard joining Sean Lock and Jon Richardson. 10.00 Rude Tube Christmas Cracker 2016 Alex Zane and his canine companion Bah Hum-Pug present some of the most popular seasonal internet videos, including a rocket-powered reindeer and a Christmas message from Björk. 11.00 Trigger Happy Christmas Special Dom Joly returns with a festive edition of the hidden-camera show, featuring new characters alongside the "big mobile man", who now has a smartphone with apps and video-calling. 11.30 The Inbetweeners The gang goes on the infamous sociology and geography field trip to Swanage, and Will takes a shine to new girl Lauren - but she is only interested in Simon. (R) 12.05 The Inbetweeners (R) 12.35 The Inbetweeners (R) 1.00 The Inbetweeners (R) 1.30 Friday Night Dinner (R) 1.55 Friday Night Dinner (R) 2.25 The Last Leg Christmas Special (R) 3.20 My Crazy Christmas Lights (R) 4.10 Location, Location, Location (R) 5.05 The Restoration Man (R) 5.55 Prep & Landing (R)</p>	
				<p>3.05 Jason and the Argonauts (1963) Fantasy adventure, starring Todd Armstrong. ★★ 5.10 Scrooge - A Christmas Carol (1951) Charles Dickens' fantasy, starring Alastair Sim. (b/w) ★★★★★ 6.55 Andre Rieu: Christmas in London A festive concert by the Dutch violinist and the Johann Strauss Orchestra, featuring carols as well as songs including Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah and the Concierto de Aranjuez. 8.00 The Yorkshire Vet at Christmas The residents of Skeldale ask Julian Norton and Peter Wright to turn on the town's Christmas lights, and find a donkey for the town square nativity scene. Last in the series. 9.00 Eamonn & Ruth: A Million Pound Christmas Eamonn Holmes and Ruth Langford discover the most expensive ways in which people can enjoy the season of goodwill, beginning by sampling a £10,000 advent calendar. 10.00 Greatest Ever Christmas Movies Countdown of the best festive films, from It's a Wonderful Life to Bad Santa. Featuring contributions by Gremkins star Zach Galifianak and Miracle on 34th Street's Mara Wilson. (R) 12.55 FILM: Scrooge - A Christmas Carol (1951) Charles Dickens' fantasy, starring Alastair Sim. ★★★★★ 2.25 SuperCasino Live interactive gaming. 4.00 The Trafford Centre: Countdown to Christmas The staff has just 10 nights to put up the Christmas decorations. (R) 4.50 House Doctor A couple from Milton Keynes hope to move to France. (R) 5.20 Angels of Jarm (R) 5.25 Roary the Racing Car Mr Carabouret calls in reinforcements. (R) 5.35 Milkshake! Bop Box (R) 5.40 Peppa Pig (R) 5.45 Paw Patrol Animated action adventure.</p>

Christmas Day

BBC 1



Strictly Come Dancing Christmas Special, shown at 6.45pm

6.00 **Breakfast** 9.00 **CBeebies: The Nutcracker** Two children embark a magical Christmas Eve adventure. 9.45 **Legend of the Boneknapper Dragon** Animated short film based on How to Train Your Dragon. (R) 10.00 **Christmas Day Service - Live from Bristol Cathedral** A traditional Holy Communion service. 11.00 **The Christmas Big Sing** 11.40 **BBC News**; Weather. 11.50 **FILM: The Croods** (2013) Animated comedy, with the voices of Nicolas Cage and Ryan Reynolds. ★★ 1.20 **Shaun the Sheep: The Farmer's Llamas** Shaun causes mayhem at a country fair. (R) 1.50 **Top of the Pops Christmas** The year's most successful chart acts. 2.50 **BBC News**; Weather.

BBC 2



Duncan Glendinning, Victorian Bakers at Christmas, on at 9.30pm

6.40 **Countryfile** (R) 7.35 **FILM: The Cat in the Hat** (2003) Comedy fantasy, starring Mike Myers. ★★ 8.50 **FILM: Tom Thumb** (1958) Children's musical fantasy, starring Russ Tamblyn. ★★ 10.20 **FILM: Bee Movie** (2007) Animated comedy, with the voice of Jerry Seinfeld. ★★ 11.40 **Carols from King's** The traditional annual carol service at the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge. (R) 12.55 **Wild Tales From the Village** Animals that live near a remote French village. (R) 1.55 **The Good Life** Margo and Jerry spend Christmas with Tom and Barbara. (R) 2.25 **FILM: The Artist** (2011) Oscar-winning silent drama, starring Jean Dujardin. (b/w) ★★

ITV



Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs at Christmas, on at 6.45pm

6.00 **CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids** (R) 6.10 **Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids** (R) 6.20 **Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures** (R) 6.35 **Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures** (R) 6.45 **Super 4** (R) 6.55 **Sooty** (R) 7.10 **Ooddbods** (R) 7.15 **Ooddbods** (R) 7.20 **Almost Naked Animals** (R) 7.30 **Almost Naked Animals** (R) 7.45 **Horrid Henry** (R) 8.00 **Horrid Henry** (R) 8.15 **Horrid Henry** (R) 8.25 **Weekend at Christmas** 9.25 **Countrywise: Guide to Britain** (R) 9.55 **FILM: Despicable Me 2** (2013) Animated comedy sequel, with the voice of Steve Carell. ★★ 11.55 **FILM: Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets** (2002) Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Daniel Radcliffe. ★★

Ch4



Richard Ayoade presents Travel Man: 48 Hours in Florence, on at 8.00pm

6.20 **Prep & Landing: Naughty v Nice** (R) 6.40 **The Bear** (R) 7.10 **Painting the Bear Hunt** 7.15 **FILM: Animals United** (2010) ★★ 8.55 **The Simpsons** (R) 9.20 **The Simpsons** (R) 9.50 **The Simpsons** (R) 10.20 **The Simpsons** (R) 10.50 **Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas** (R) 11.15 **Painting the Bear Hunt** 11.20 **Father Christmas** (R) 11.50 **The Snowman** (R) 12.20 **FILM: The Sword in the Stone** (1963) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Rickie Sorenson. ★★ 2.05 **The Alternative Christmas Message** Counterpoint to the Queen's broadcast. 2.15 **Channel 4 News** Including sport and weather. 2.20 **FILM: It's a Wonderful Life** (1946) Fantasy drama, starring James Stewart. (b/w) ★★

Ch5



Cliff Richard features in Britain's Favourite Xmas Songs, on at 6.15pm

6.10 **Milkshake!** 7.35 **FILM: An American in Paris** (1951) Oscar-winning musical, with Gene Kelly and Leslie Caron. ★★ 9.50 **FILM: On the Town** (1949) Musical following the romantic misadventures of three sailors looking for love while enjoying a day's shore leave in New York. Starring Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra and Jules Munshin. ★★ 11.50 **FILM: Scrooge** (1970) A miserly man is taught the error of his ways by a host of spectral visitors. Musical adaptation of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, starring Albert Finney and Alec Guinness. ★★ 2.10 **FILM: The Wizard of Oz** (1939) Musical fantasy, with Judy Garland, Ray Bolger, Jack Haley and Frank Morgan. ★★

Early View

Prime Time

Late View

3.00 The Queen's Christmas Broadcast

3.10 Frozen (2013) Premiere. A princess tries to save her sister, whose magic has plunged the kingdom into eternal winter. Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Kristen Bell ★★

4.45 The Great Christmas Bake Off

5.45 Doctor Who

6.45 Strictly Come Dancing Christmas Special

8.00 Call the Midwife

Christmas special, in which the nurses of Nonnatus House travel to South Africa to help the struggling staff of a mission clinic faced with closure. Sinead Cusack guest stars.

9.30 EastEnders Any hopes of a merry Christmas seem slim with Phil's health deteriorating rapidly. Lee struggling with the burden of his secrets and the return of none other than Max Branning.

10.30 Mrs Brown's Boys Christmas Special Grandad's health causes concern, Mrs Brown steps in when a fire at the salon leaves Rory and Dino with nowhere to work, while Dermot faces stiff competition to win a contract.

11.00 The Best of Tracey Ullman's Show Highlights from the comedy sketch show, as well as some brand new material.

11.30 BBC News; Weather.

11.45 On Christmas Night Don Warrington reads the bible story of the shepherds' visit to the Christ Child from the Gospel of St Luke, and the Adventist Vocal Ensemble sing Sweet Little Jesus Boy.

11.50 Would I Lie to You? At Christmas (R)

12.20 **Have I Got a Bit More** 2016 **News for You** 1.05 **Citizen Khan** (R) 1.35 **FILM: While You Were Sleeping** (1995) ★★ 3.10 **Weather for the Week Ahead** 3.15 **BBC News**

4.00 Dancing the Nutcracker - Inside the Royal Ballet

5.30 Sign Zone: The Queen's Christmas Broadcast (R)

5.40 The Morecambe and Wise Christmas Show - 1976 (R)

6.45 Christmas University Challenge

7.15 Blackadder's Christmas Carol Kindly Victorian pushover Ebenezer Blackadder is visited by the Spirit of Christmas and gains an insight into the dastardly deeds of his ancestors. Starring Rowan Atkinson. (R)

8.00 Dad's Army Pompous Captain Mainwaring proves he is a softie at heart by organising a Christmas treat for the struggling senior citizens of Walmington-on-Sea. (R)

8.30 Gospel Christmas Gregory Porter and Beverly Knight host a concert from St John at Hackney, featuring gospel versions of classic Christmas songs. With Katy B, Shaun Escoffery and vocal quintet Vadé.

9.30 Victorian Bakers at Christmas The bakers prepare Victorian Christmas recipes, including twelfth cakes, bread-based punch, roasts to feed entire communities, and mince pies made with either beef or tripe.

10.30 QI XL Sandi Toksvig and Alan Davies are joined by Josh Widdicombe, Susan Calman and Matt Lucas for an extended festive special, with a series of tough questions on the subject of Noel.

11.15 Great Expectations (2012) An orphan is given the chance to rise through high society with the assistance of a mysterious benefactor. Period drama, with Jeremy Irvine and Helena Bonham Carter. ★★

1.15 FILM: A Hard Day's Night (1964) (b/w) ★★ 2.40 **This Is** **BBC Two**

3.00 The Queen's Christmas Broadcast

Her Majesty's annual address.

3.10 The Lion King (1994) A lion cub prince flees after his father is murdered, but returns as an adult to reclaim his throne. Disney animated musical, with the voice of Matthew Broderick. ★★

4.55 ITV News and Weather

5.15 You've Been Framed! Harry's Naughty List Comical clips for Christmas, narrated by Harry Hill.

5.45 Emmerdale An unexpected recording ruins the Dingle Christmas.

6.45 Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs at Christmas The comedian visits Battersea Dogs & Cats Home at Christmas, where he comes to the aid of a pregnant pug and tries to get a snaggle-toothed shih tzu the royal seal of approval.

7.45 ITV News and Weather

8.00 Coronation Street Leanne is thrilled when Toyah returns to the cobbles, while Peter and Nick wind up brawling in the street, and Bethany collapses in the ginnel from an overdose.

9.00 Mairnet's Dead Man Rowan Atkinson stars as the Parisian detective in the second in a run of adaptations of Georges Simenon's books. A series of anonymous phone calls is linked to a mysterious corpse.

11.00 Love Actually (2003) Interlinked tales of several people in search of love. Richard Curtis's romantic comedy, with Hugh Grant, Martine McCutcheon, Emma Thompson, Colin Firth, Bill Nighy and Liam Neeson. ★★

1.30 FILM: King Kong (2005) Peter Jackson's remake of the fantasy adventure, with Naomi Watts and Jack Black. ★★ 4.25 **ITV** **Nightscreen**

4.55 The Snowman and the Snowdog

Animated sequel to classic festive tale The Snowman. (R)

5.25 We're Going on a Bear Hunt Animated adventure, based on Michael Rosen's book of the same name. (R)

6.00 Home Alone (1990) A boy is left to defend his home from burglars when his family jets off to Paris and accidentally leaves him behind. Comedy, starring Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci and Daniel Stern. ★★

8.00 Travel Man: 48 Hours in Florence Rebel Wilson joins Richard Ayoade on a rapid-fire tour of the Italian city, racing past iconic artworks, climbing the city's cathedral, and rafting down the River Arno.

9.00 Gogglebox 2016 A look back at some of the highlights of this year's series, featuring regular armchair presenters Leon and June, Christopher and Stephen, and the Michaels family.

10.30 Alan Carr's Christmas Chatty Man With Scarlett Moffatt, Tom Hardy, Tom Daley, Gary Barlow, Dannii Minogue, Martin Kemp and the cast of Rogue One: A Star Wars Story. With music from Emeli Sandé and Robbie Williams.

12.35 FILM: Four Christmases (2008) A couple struggle to make it through four family Christmases on the same day as they see each of their divorced parents in turn. Comedy, with Vince Vaughn and Reese Witherspoon. ★★ 2.05 **Rude Tube Christmas Cracker 2016** Some of the most popular Christmas-themed internet videos of all time. (R) 3.05 **Very British Problems at Christmas** Famous faces grumble about the festive season. (R) 4.00 **Location, Location, Location** Phil Spencer helps a couple searching for a home in south-west London. (R) 5.00 **Supershoppers** Andi Osho and Anna Richardson investigate winter fashion. (R) 5.25 **The Restoration Man** (R)

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12.45 Greatest Ever Christmas Songs A celebratory compilation of some of the biggest festive songs of the last 50 years. (R) 1.10 **SuperCasino 3.10: Chris Tarrant: On the Xmas Express** (R) 4.00 **Now That's Funny!** (R) 4.50 **House Doctor** (R) 5.40 **Angels of Jarm** (R) 5.50 **Roary the Racing Car** (R)

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Boxing Day

BBC 1



Animation with the voice of Kelly Macdonald, Brave, on at 2.40pm

6.00 Breakfast Headlines and business news. **9.00** **FILM: Tinker Bell and the Pirate Fairy** (2014) Premiere. Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Mae Whitman. **★★★** **10.10** **FILM: Planes** (2013) Premiere. Animated adventure, with the voice of Dane Cook. **★★** **11.30** **The Great Christmas Bake Off** (R) **12.30** **BBC News**; Weather. **12.45** **Midlands Today**; Weather **12.50** **Countryside** **1.50** **The Moonstone** Period mystery, starring Joshua Silver. (R) **2.40** **FILM: Brave** (2012) A princess uses magic to avoid an arranged marriage, but the spell has disastrous repercussions. Animated fantasy, with the voices of Kelly Macdonald, and Emma Thompson. **★★★**

BBC 2



Gordon Buchanan: Elephant Family & Me, shown at 8.30pm

6.15 **Natural World: Honey Badgers - Masters of Mayhem** (R) **7.15** **Sign Zone: Nature's Weirdest Events** (R) **8.15** **FILM: Around the World in 80 Days** (1956) A Victorian gentleman wagers he can circumnavigate the globe in just 80 days. Oscar-winning period adventure, based on Jules Verne's novel, starring David Niven. **★★★** **11.00** **FILM: The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of the Unicorn** (2011) Animated adventure, with the voice of Jamie Bell. **★★★** **12.40** **FILM: Dances with Wolves** (1990) A soldier alone at a remote outpost is adopted into a Sioux tribe during the American Civil War. Oscar-winning Western, directed by and starring Kevin Costner. With Mary McDonnell. **★★★★**

ITV



Georgia Taylor stars as Toyah in Coronation Street, on at 7.30pm

6.00 **CITY: Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures**. (R) **6.25** **Super 4** (R) **6.35** **Super 4** (R) **6.50** **Super 4** (R) **7.05** **Minion Madness** (R) **7.10** **Minion Madness** (R) **7.15** **Minion Madness** (R) **7.20** **Oddbods** (R) **7.25** **Max Steel** (R) **7.55** **Adventure Time** (R) **8.05** **Adventure Time** (R) **8.20** **Signed Stories** (R) **8.25** **Almost Naked Animals** (R) **8.40** **Almost Naked Animals** (R) **8.55** **Mr Bean: The Animated Series** (R) **9.10** **Mr Bean: The Animated Series** (R) **9.25** **FILM: The Flintstones** (1994) **★★** **11.05** **FILM: Liar Liar** (1997) **★★★** **12.40** **Hilda Ogden's Last Ta-ra - A Tribute to Jean Alexander** (R) **1.40** **The Nation's Favourite Disney Song** (R) **2.40** **FILM: Sleeping Beauty** (1959) **★★★**

Ch4



The world's biggest Lego store features in A Big Lego Christmas, 8.00pm

6.25 **FILM: Planet 51** (2009) Animated sci-fi comedy, with the voice of Dwayne Johnson. **★★★** **8.00** **The Morning Line** Racing preview. **9.00** **FILM: Aliens in the Attic** (2009) A teenager finds a force of aliens hiding in his attic and must prevent the extraterrestrials taking over the world. Children's sci-fi comedy, with Carter Jenkins and Austin Butler. **★★★** **10.40** **The Simpsons** (R) **11.05** **The Simpsons** (R) **11.35** **FILM: Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World** (2011) Family adventure, starring Jessica Alba. **★★** **1.15** **Channel 4 Racing** Nick Luck and Rishi Persad present live coverage of five races from Kempton Park and Wetherby, including the 3.15 King George VI Chase.

Ch5



Mark Armstrong features in Building the Ice Hotel, shown at 8.00pm

6.00 **Milkshake!** **7.45** **Big Bash Cricket** Hobart Hurricanes v Melbourne Stars. Coverage of the round-robin match in the Australian domestic league, staged at Blundstone Arena. **11.20** **World's Strongest Man 2016** The World Deadlift Championships. (R) **12.20** **FILM: Seven Brides for Seven Brothers** (1954) A cowboy decides to get married, prompting his six hellraising brothers to kidnap brides for themselves. Stanley Donen's musical Western, starring Howard Keel and Jane Powell. **★★★** **2.20** **FILM: West Side Story** (1961) Two teenagers from rival New York street gangs fall in love. Leonard Bernstein's musical based on Romeo and Juliet, with Natalie Wood and Russ Tamblyn. **★★★★**

Early View

Prime Time

Late View

4.05 **The Gruffalo** (R) **4.30** **How to Train Your Dragon 2** (2014) Premiere. Animated adventure sequel, with the voice of Jay Baruchel. **★★★**

6.05 **BBC News Today**; Weather **6.20** **Midlands Today**; Weather **6.30** **Revolting Rhymes** **7.00** **The Great Christmas Bake Off** Part two of two. Mel Giedroyc, Sue Perkins, Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood end their time together in the tent as previous contestants Chetna, Howard, James M and Janet compete.

8.00 **EastEnders** With past events hanging heavily over Lee, he finds himself in an impossible situation. Lauren is shocked to learn of Max's return and breaks the news to Jane.

8.30 **Still Open All Hours** New series. Granville and Gastric find themselves acting as marriage counsellors, while Leroy adopts a festive disguise to avoid trouble. Return of the comedy, starring David Jason.

9.00 **The Witness for the Prosecution** Part one of two. A solicitor defends a man charged with the murder of a wealthy widow. Agatha Christie mystery, with Toby Jones, Andrea Riseborough, Billy Howle and Kim Cattrall.

10.00 **Outnumbered** The Brockmans carry out a special Boxing Day mission for Grandad, only to be beset by all manner of problems - and if Pete and Sue cannot sort it out, the kids will have to.

10.40 **BBC News**; Weather. **10.55** **Match of the Day** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the Boxing Day fixtures in the Premier League, including Arsenal v West Bromwich Albion and Manchester United v Sunderland.

12.25 **Fleabag** (R) **12.55** **Fleabag** (R) **1.25** **Williams & Friend** (R) **1.55** **Weather for the Week Ahead** **2.00** **BBC News**

3.30 **Victorian Bakers at Christmas** The bakers prepare Christmas recipes from the Victorian era. (R) **4.30** **Final Score** A round-up of this afternoon's football results.

5.20 **West Side Stories - The Making of a Classic** The creation of the Broadway musical.

6.20 **Christmas University Challenge** Bristol takes on Nottingham.

6.50 **Dad's Army** Frazer is unable to hide his delight when Captain Mainwaring's disreputable brother gatecrashes a sherry party for local dignitaries. Classic comedy, starring Arthur Lowe. (R)

7.30 **Nature's Weirdest Events** Nature's super-survivors, including the story of a frog whose dinner is fighting back and a prehistoric fish whose thirst for blood almost destroyed an entire fishing community.

8.30 **Gordon Buchanan: Elephant Family & Me** Part one of two. Gordon Buchanan encounters a family of African elephants in the wilds of Kenya, and attempts to gain their trust so he can observe them up close.

9.30 **The Entire Universe** Comedy musical in which Eric Idle turns Professor Brian Cox's lecture on the history of the universe into an all-singing, all-dancing extravaganza.

10.30 **Pride** (2014) Premiere. A group of gay rights activists in 1980s Britain travels to Wales to lend their support to the striking miners. Fact-based drama, starring Ben Schnetzer. **★★★** **12.25** **Gospel Christmas** 1237769 25ter and Beverley Knight host a concert from St John at Hackney, featuring gospel versions of classic Christmas songs. (R) **1.25** **FILM: Tommy** (1975) **★★★** **3.10** **Sign Zone: Inside the Christmas Factory** (R) **4.10** **This Is BBC Two** **5.50** **Jungle Animal Hospital: Natural World** (R)

4.10 **Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban** (2004) Fantasy adventure, starring Daniel Radcliffe. **★★★** **6.45** **ITV News and Weather** **7.00** **Emmerdale** Joanie tells Zak that she does not want to remain friends, even though it would make Kyle happy. She decides to take charge of her life, with devastating results for the Dingles.

7.30 **Coronation Street** Toyah's husband begs her to give their marriage another chance, and Peter prepares to break the news of his relationship to the locals.

8.00 **You've Been Framed! Harry's Naughty List** Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of Christmas mishaps, featuring a Nativity wrecked by a drone, hoverboards smashing decorations, and the dangers of eating sprouts. (R)

8.30 **Coronation Street** Thanks to his new drone, a stunned Simon sees Peter kissing his mystery woman, while Sarah tells Gary they are finished as she has to put Bethany first.

9.00 **Captain Phillips** (2013) Premiere. The captain of a cargo ship travelling around the coast of Somalia is taken hostage when pirates raid the vessel. Fact-based thriller, with Tom Hanks. **★★★★**

11.35 **ITV News**; Weather. **11.55** **Through the Keyhole** Keith Lemon hosts a Christmas special of the game show, as celebrity panellists Shayne Ward, Kelly Brook and Johnny Vegas are asked to identify the homes of the rich and famous. (R)

12.50 **Jackpot247** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.00** **The Jeremy Kyle Show** (R) **3.55** **ITV News** **5.05** **The Jeremy Kyle Show** (R)

3.45 **The Simpsons** An adult Bart and Lisa return home for Christmas with their parents. (R) **4.10** **The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe** (2005) Fantasy adventure, starring Tilda Swinton. **★★★**

6.50 **Channel 4 News** Including sport and weather.

7.00 **The World's Most Expensive Toys** Documentary exploring the world of the craftspeople and inventors attempting to realise the dreams of Britain's billionaires by creating luxurious gifts and entertainments. (R)

8.00 **A Big Lego Christmas** Behind the scenes in the run-up to the opening of the world's biggest Lego store in London's Leicester Square, and following a man attempting to build a giant model of Tower Bridge.

9.00 **The Big Fat Quiz of the Year 2016** Jimmy Carr hosts the annual end-of-year quiz, with Richard Ayoade, Rob Delaney, Mel Giedroyc, Sarah Millican, David Mitchell and Romesh Ranganathan competing.

11.10 **Pitch Perfect** (2012) A college freshman joins an a cappella singing group made up of social misfits to compete in campus music competitions. Comedy, starring Anna Kendrick and Rebel Wilson. **★★★**

1.20 **Travel Man: 48 Hours in Florence** Rebel Wilson joins Richard Ayoade on a tour of the Italian city. (R) **2.20** **Celebrity First Dates** With Samuel Preston, Scarlett Moffatt, Jo Wood, and Ashleigh Butler. (R) **3.15** **Hollyoaks Omnibus**. Sienna visits Joel at church, but is left frustrated when he fails to acknowledge her advances, while Lisa panics when she hears about tensions at The Dog. **5.20** **FILM: Paws** (1997) Family adventure, starring Nathan Cavaleri and the voice of Billy Connolly. **★★★★**

5.20 **The Love Punch** (2013) Premiere. Crime comedy, starring Pierce Brosnan and Emma Thompson. **★★★**

7.00 **World's Strongest Man 2016** Europe's Strongest Man. Action from the contest at the First Direct Arena in Leeds, where home favourite Eddie Hall and Hafthor Bjornsson were among those who took part.

8.00 **Building the Ice Hotel** The work of builders constructing Icehotel, a sophisticated structure built every year since 1990 in the village of Jukkasjärvi - more than 120 miles inside the Arctic Circle. (R)

9.00 **Football on 5: The Championship** George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce action from the Boxing Day fixtures, which included Aston Villa v Burton Albion and Newcastle United v Sheffield Wednesday.

10.00 **Football on 5: Goal Rush** George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the Boxing Day matches in Leagues One and Two, including Bradford City v Scunthorpe United.

10.30 **Britain's Favourite Abba Songs** A countdown of the Swedish pop group's 20 most popular songs, with celebrity fans including Jane McDonald and Liz McClarnon introducing their favourite clips. (R)

12.05 **FILM: Muriel's Wedding** (1994) Australian comedy, starring Toni Collette. **★★★** **1.55** **SuperCasino** Live interactive gaming. **3.10** **Penguins Make You Laugh Out Loud** The flightless birds at their funniest. (R) **4.00** **Tattoo Disasters UK** Featuring a granny whose tribute tattoo turns deadly. (R) **4.25** **Criminals: Caught on Camera** (R) **4.45** **Great Artists** The life and work of Giotto di Bondone. (R) **5.10** **House Doctor** A West Midlands home is overhauled. (R) **5.35** **House Doctor** A couple from Milton Keynes hope to move to France. (R)

BBC 1



Harrison Ford stars in Raiders of the Lost Ark, shown at 1.35pm

6.00 Breakfast 7.35 Match of the Day (R) 9.10 FILM: Gnomeo & Juliet (2011) Animated comedy, with the voices of James McAvoy and Emily Blunt. ★★ 10.25 The Furchester Hotel: A Furchester Christmas 10.50 FILM: Cars 2 (2011) Animated adventure sequel, with the voice of Owen Wilson. ★★ 12.30 BBC News 12.40 Midlands Today: Weather 12.50 The Moonstone The celebrated Sergeant Cuff is called to Yorkshire by Franklin. (R) 1.35 FILM: Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981) Archaeologist Indiana Jones tries to locate the Ark of the Covenant before the Nazis get their hands on it. Steven Spielberg's action adventure, with Harrison Ford and Karen Allen. ★★

BBC 2



Wildlife documentary, New Zealand: Earth's Mythical Islands, 6.00pm

6.50 Sign Zone: Fern Britton Meets Rebecca Ferguson (R) 7.50 FILM: Herbie Rides Again (1974) Disney comedy sequel, starring Helen Hayes. ★★ 9.15 This Farming Life John hires extra help for the lambing season. (R) 10.15 Money for Nothing Sarah Moore transforms items from tips in Greater Manchester and Surrey. 11.15 FILM: The Passworld Is Courage (1962) Fact-based Second World War comedy drama, starring Dirk Bogarde. (b/w) ★★ 1.05 FILM: The Heroes of Telemark (1965) Norwegian resistance fighters launch a campaign of sabotage to stop occupying Nazi forces developing an atomic bomb. Second World War thriller, with Kirk Douglas. ★★

ITV



Fantastic Beasts and JK Rowling's Wizarding World, shown at 5.40pm

6.00 CITY: Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.25 Super 4 (R) 6.50 Super 4 (R) 7.05 Minion Madness (R) 7.10 Minion Madness (R) 7.15 Minion Madness (R) 7.20 Oddbods (R) 7.25 Max Steel (R) 7.55 Adventure Time (R) 8.05 Adventure Time (R) 8.15 Signed Stories: Share a Story (R) 8.20 Nerds & Monsters (R) 8.40 Nerds & Monsters (R) 8.55 Mr Bean: The Animated Series (R) 9.10 Mr Bean: The Animated Series (R) 9.25 FILM: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) ★★ 11.05 This Time Next Year (R) 12.05 Tipping Point (R) 1.05 ITV Lunchtime News: Weather. 1.10 Puppy Secrets: The First Six Months (R) 2.10 FILM: Happy Feet (2006) ★★

Ch4



George Clarke presents Amazing Spaces Snow Special, on at 8.00pm

6.50 FILM: Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer (2011) Comedy, starring Jordana Beatty. ★★ 8.30 FILM: Magic in the Water (1995) Two children investigate the legend of a mysterious lake-dwelling creature and help protect its home from pollution. Family adventure, starring Mark Harmon and Joshua Jackson. ★★ 10.30 The Simpsons (R) 11.00 The Simpsons (R) 11.30 FILM: Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen (2004) Drama, starring Lindsay Lohan. ★★ 1.15 Channel 4 Racing Live coverage of this afternoon's races, including the 2.40 Welsh Grand National from Chepstow, along with three further races from the course, and three from Kempton Park.

Ch5



Eddie Hall features in World's Strongest Man 2016, on at 7.00pm

6.00 Milkshake! 8.35 Football on 5: The Championship Action from the Boxing Day fixtures. (R) 9.35 Football on 5: Goal Rush Goals from the Boxing Day matches in Leagues One and Two. (R) 10.05 FILM: Space Camp (1986) Six high-school students at a summer academy for would-be astronauts are accidentally launched into orbit. Children's sci-fi adventure, starring Kate Capshaw. ★★ 12.10 FILM: Teen Wolf (1985) Comedy, starring Michael J. Fox. ★★ 2.00 FILM: Harry and the Hendersons (1987) A family's holiday in the mountains is thrown into turmoil by an encounter with the legendary Bigfoot, whom they end up taking home. Comedy, with John Lithgow and Melinda Dillon. ★★

Early View

Prime Time

Late View

3.25 The Gruffalo's Child (R) 3.50 Mr Peabody & Sherman (2014) ★★

5.15 Pointless (R) 6.00 BBC News 6.20 Midlands Today: Weather

6.30 Revolting Rhymes 7.00 Graeme Swann answers Star Wars questions, the Rev Kate Bottley chooses Adrian Mole, Janice Long on Echo & The Bunnymen and Paul Carrack on Sheffield Wednesday. John Humphrys hosts.

7.30 EastEnders Max tries to build bridges with his family, although everything may not be as it seems. The Mitchell sisters let their hair down at Ronnie's hen party.

8.00 Holly City Mo strives to suppress her true feelings for Mr T, it's Jasmine's last chance on the Acute Assessment Unit, and Essie and Raf come to blows over a testing patient.

9.00 The Witness for the Prosecution Part two of two. Romaine, whose testimony was the one hope to save Leonard from the gallows, has turned on him, leaving Mayhew's case hopeless. Drama, starring Toby Jones.

10.00 Walliams & Friend Christmas Special Hugh Bonneville becomes David Walliams' latest 'friend', playing roles as diverse as Lord Sugar on the Apprentice and the Countess of Grantham. Last in the series.

10.40 BBC News 10.55 Midlands Today: Weather: National Lottery Update

11.00 Mrs Brown's Boys The family falls out over a board game. (R)

11.35 Outnumbered The Brockmans carry out a special Boxing Day mission for Grandad. (R) 12.15 Fleabag (R) 12.45 Fleabag (R) 1.15 Weather for the Week Ahead 1.20 BBC News

3.15 Nature's Weirdest Events (R) 4.00 Inside the Factory: Chocolate (R)

5.00 Tribes, Predators & Me (R) 6.00 New Zealand: Earth's Mythical Islands (R)

7.00 Dad's Army Mainwaring finds himself bidding against Pike for an orange at a fundraising bazaar, but the private reveals a stubborn streak that costs the captain dear. (R)

7.30 Christmas University Challenge Jeremy Paxman asks the questions as two teams, each made up of four graduates, compete on behalf of their former universities in the first semi-final of the quiz's festive series.

8.00 Gordon Buchanan: Elephant Family & Me Part two of two. Gordon Buchanan encounters a family of African elephants in the wilderness of Kenya, and attempts to gain their trust so he can observe them up close.

9.00 The Real Marigold on Tour: Florida Part one of two. Actress Miriam Margulies, dancer Wayne Sleep, darts champion Bobby George and chef Rosemary Shrager investigate retirement in Florida. Part two is on Friday.

10.00 Inside No 9 - The Devil of Christmas Black comedy, starring Jessica Raine.

10.30 Live at the Apollo Christmas Special 2015 Nina Conti hosts a special festive edition of the stand-up show. (R)

11.00 Insert Name Here: Christmas Special Festive edition of the comedy panel game, hosted by Sue Perkins. (R)

11.30 NFL This Week 12.20 Sign Zone: David Walliams Celebrates Dame Shirley Bassey (R) 1.25 Sign Zone: Planet Earth II (R) 2.25 Sign Zone: Who Do You Think You Are? (R) 3.25 This Is BBC Two 5.40 Natural World: The Monkey-Eating Eagle of the Orinoco (R)

4.10 50 Greatest Harry Potter Moments Robbie Coltrane narrates a countdown of the movie franchise's best scenes, including magical mysteries, spellbinding battles and tragic deaths. (R)

5.40 Fantastic Beasts and JK Rowling's Wizarding World Warwick Davis explores the popularity of JK Rowling's fantasy sagas, with access to the cast and creators of her new film, Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them. (R)

6.40 ITV Evening News: Weather.

7.00 Emmerdale Liv finds out where Joanie is from Kerry's phone, and Lisa goes to see her, hoping to persuade her to return to the village and not separate Kyle from his father.

7.30 Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire (2005) The teenage wizard is chosen to represent Hogwarts School in a dangerous magical tournament. Fourth instalment of the fantasy saga, starring Daniel Radcliffe and Robert Pattinson. ★★

10.30 ITV News: Weather. 10.45 Pompeii with Michael Buerk Documentary "resurrecting" the city buried under volcanic ash almost 2,000 years ago, using CGI and historical expertise to lift Pompeii from the ashes and bring it back to life.

11.45 Premiership Rugby Union Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman present action from the latest fixtures, including Harlequins v Gloucester and Exeter Chiefs v Leicester Tigers.

12.35 Jackpot247 Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. 3.00 ITV Nightscreen Text-based information service. 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show (R)

4.15 Channel 4 News Summary Includes headlines and weather.

4.20 Stuart Little (1999) Comedy adventure, with the voice of Michael J. Fox. ★★

6.00 The Simpsons Lisa develops a Facebook-style social network that takes the town by storm - but when the addictive website threatens mass hysteria, she finds herself put on trial. (R)

6.30 Hollyoaks Sienna persuades Warren to go with her to bury Nico's ashes.

7.00 Posh Pawn at Christmas Lawrence and James are put through their paces by Britain's most successful female gymnast, Beth Tweddle, who wants to sell her Olympic leotards to raise money for a good cause.

8.00 Amazing Spaces Snow Special The architect and Will Hardie embark on a snow-covered design odyssey across the mountain ranges of Western Canada.

9.00 This Is Us Rebecca and Jack take their three kids to the community swimming pool, and Kevin auditions for his first Broadway play. Drama, starring Mandy Moore and Justin Hartley.

10.00 Gogglebox 2016 A look back at some of the highlights of this year's series, featuring regular armchair presenters Leon and June, Christopher and Stephen, and the Michaels family. (R)

11.35 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown Christmas Special Jimmy Carr hosts a festive edition of the comedy panel show, with guests Kathy Burke and Russell Howard joining Sean Lock and Jon Richardson. (R)

12.40 FILM: The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (2009) (English Subtitles) ★★ 3.20 Food Unwrapped at Christmas (R) 4.15 Couples Come Dine with Me (R) 5.00 FILM: Ramona and Beezus (2010) ★★

4.10 Labyrinth (1986) Fantasy adventure, starring Jennifer Connelly and David Bowie. ★★

6.15 BattleBots: World Championship New series. Molly McGrath hosts as 24 robot builders put their machines to the ultimate test in a series of fights. With Chris Rose and Kenny Florian.

7.00 World's Strongest Man 2016 Action from the opening heat of the competition at Chobe National Park in Botswana. British hopes were resting on the broad shoulders of the likes of Eddie Hall and Mark Felix; 5 News Update

8.00 There's a Croc in My Kitchen Documentary following people around Britain who keep predatory wild animals as unusual pets, including a crocodile, a Komodo dragon, a serval, a lynx and a wolf hybrid; 5 News Update

9.00 Dirty Dancing (1987) A dance instructor at a 1960s resort teaches a naive teenager about self-expression as they perform in an important show. Romantic drama, with Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey. Includes 5 News at 10.30pm. ★★

11.05 Greatest 80s Movies Ronni Ancona narrates a countdown of viewers' favourite films from the decade, including ET, Top Gun, The Goonies, Ghostbusters, Beverly Hills Cop and Ferris Bueller's Day Off. (R)

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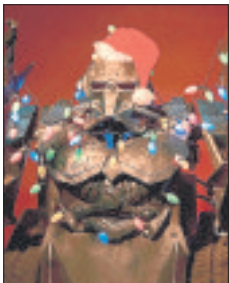
BBC 1



Fiona Bruce presents Antiques Roadshow, shown at 6.30pm

6.00 Breakfast Headlines and business news. **9.00 FILM: Tinker Bell and the Secret of the Wings (2012)** Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Mae Whitman. **★★★ 10.10 Justin's House: Cat's First Christmas 10.30 FILM: Wallace & Gromit in The Curse of the Were-Rabbit (2005)** Oscar-winning animated adventure, with the voice of Peter Sallis. **★★★ 11.50 Bargain Hunt (R) 12.40 BBC News; Weather. 12.50 Midlands Today; Weather. 1.00 The Moonstone** Franklin discovers Rachel's cousin Godfrey may be involved in the Moonstone's theft. (R) **1.45 FILM: Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984)** Action adventure, starring Harrison Ford. **★★★**

BBC 2



A festive special, Robot Wars: Battle of the Stars, shown at 8.00pm

6.40 Sign Zone: Coastal Path Paul Rose visits the South Devon coastline. (R) **7.10 Sign Zone: Great British Menu** Russell Bateman, Ronnie Murray and Mark Froydenlund try to impress the judges. (R) **7.40 FILM: Herbie Goes to Monte Carlo (1977)** Disney comedy adventure sequel, starring Dean Jones. **★★★ 9.20 This Farming Life (R) 10.20 Money for Nothing 11.20 FILM: The Alamo (2004)** A vastly outnumbered group of Texan soldiers mounts a suicidal defence to protect a fortress against Mexican forces. Historical Western, starring Dennis Quaid. **★★ 1.25 FILM: Up Periscope (1959)** Second World War naval adventure, with James Garner. **★★★**

ITV



Nick Miles stars as Jimmy in the soap, Emmerdale, shown at 7.00pm

6.00 Good Morning Britain 8.30 Lorraine Entertainment and fashion news. **9.25 FILM: Free Willy 2: The Adventure Home (1995)** Family adventure, starring Jason James Richter. **★★ 11.15 FILM: Bean (1997)** Comedy, starring Rowan Atkinson. **★★★ 12.55 ITV Lunchtime News; Weather. 1.05 ITV News Central; Weather. 1.15 Puppy Secrets: The First Six Months** Part two of two. The puppies move into their new homes with their new owners. (R) **2.20 FILM: Father of the Bride (1991)** A doting father struggles to come to terms with his daughter's impending wedding and her increasingly complicated plans. Comedy remake, starring Steve Martin and Diane Keaton. **★★★**

Ch4



93-year-old widow Violet features in 24 Hours in A&E, on at 9.00pm

6.40 FILM: California Man (1992) Teen comedy, starring Brendan Fraser. **★★ 8.10 FILM: Dunston Checks In (1996)** Family comedy, starring Jason Alexander. **★★★ 9.50 The Simpsons** Homer becomes a fisherman. (R) **10.15 The Simpsons** Homer accidentally declares himself bankrupt. (R) **10.45 FILM: The Muppet Movie (1979)** Kermit the frog leads his motley band on a trip across America to seek their fortune in Hollywood. Comedy, starring Dom DeLuise. **★★★ 12.50 FILM: Vice Versa (1988)** Fantasy comedy, starring Judge Reinhold and Fred Savage. **★★★ 2.45 FILM: Stuart Little 2 (2002)** Family adventure sequel, with the voice of Michael J. Fox. **★★★**

Ch5



Clint Eastwood heads the cast in Kelly's Heroes, shown at 3.20pm

6.00 Milkshake! 9.20 SpongeBob SquarePants 9.55 World's Strongest Man 2016 Action from the opening heat of the competition at Chobe National Park in Botswana. British hopes were resting on the broad shoulders of the likes of Eddie Hall and Mark Felix. (R) **10.55 FILM: The African Queen (1951)** A missionary and a drunken captain make a perilous journey through Africa at the outbreak of the First World War. Romantic adventure, starring Humphrey Bogart. **★★★★ 1.00 FILM: The Glenn Miller Story (1954)** Musical biopic of the bandleader and trombonist, depicting his triumphs both on and off the stage before his mysterious disappearance in 1944. With James Stewart and June Allyson. **★★★**

3.35 Muppets Most Wanted (2014) Premiere. Comedy, starring Ricky Gervais. **★★★**

5.15 Pointless Quiz show, hosted by Alexander Armstrong. (R)

6.00 BBC News 6.20 Today; Weather

6.30 Antiques Roadshow Fiona Bruce finds out what happened after some of this year's most memorable finds were sold, revisiting the former owners to find out what they did with the proceeds of their sale.

7.30 Ethel & Ernest (2016) Premiere. Animated drama based on Raymond Briggs' graphic novel following the lives of his parents through 40 tumultuous years. With the voice of Jim Broadbent. **★★★★**

9.00 Jonathan Creek Alan Davies' consulting detective returns to help an old acquaintance get to the bottom of a mystery from her past revolving around her family's foreboding home - Daemons' Roost.

10.30 BBC News 10.40 Midlands Today; Weather; National Lottery Update

10.50 Mrs Brown's Boys Mrs Brown tries to work out what is inside a parcel addressed to Cathy and discovers Rory is planning to have plastic surgery. (R)

11.25 Sport Relief 2016: The Final Score Danny Dyer revisits the best moments from this year's sporting charity event, which saw thousands of people across the UK sign up to take part in fundraising stunts.

12.25 Fleabag Claire and Fleabag return to their father's home for an annual gathering to mark the anniversary of their mother's death - but this time there is an unwanted guest. (R) **12.50 Fleabag** Surprises are in store when Fleabag attends her godmother's exhibition of erotic art. Last in the series. (R) **1.20 Weather for the Week Ahead 1.25 BBC News**

3.15 Nature's Weirdest Events (R)

4.00 Inside the Factory: Sweets (R)

5.00 Tribes, Predators & Me 6.00 New Zealand: Earth's Mythical Islands (R)

7.00 The Good Life Tom fears he and Barbara have no money set aside for their old age. George Cole guest stars in the final episode of the sitcom, made for the 1978 Royal Command Performance. (R)

7.30 Christmas University Challenge Jeremy Paxman asks the questions in the second semi-final of this year's Christmas contest.

8.00 Robot Wars: Battle of the Stars Dara O Briain and Angela Scanlon present the first of two festive specials in which four celebrity teams design their dream robot and battle it out in the arena.

9.00 Dragons' Den Christmas edition. Peter Jones, Deborah Meaden, Touker Suleyman, Sarah Willingham and Nick Jenkins meet entrepreneurs selling dance mats, active holidays, socks and chocolate.

10.00 Live at the Apollo Christmas Special With Romesh Ranganathan, Seann Walsh, Kerry Godliman and Spencer Jones. (R)

10.30 The Real Marigold on Tour Part one of two. Miriam Margolyes, Wayne Sleep, Bobby George and Rosemary Shrager investigate retirement in Florida. (R)

11.30 Song for Marion (2012) A grouchy old man's life is dramatically changed when he takes his terminally ill wife's place in the local choir. Comedy drama, with Terence Stamp. **★★★**

1.00 Sign Zone: Alan Bennett's Diaries (R) 2.00 FILM: Sign Zone: The Lady in the Van (2015) ★★★★★ 3.40 This Is BBC 2 5.45 Natural World: Tiger Dynasty (R)

4.25 Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs at Christmas The comedian visits Battersea Dogs & Cats Home at Christmas, where he comes to the aid of a pregnant pug and tries to get a snaggle-toothed shih tzu the royal seal of approval. (R)

5.30 Blankety Blank David Walliams presents a one-off special revival of the 1970s game show in which contestants and a panel of celebrities must identify the missing word in a phrase. (R)

6.25 ITV News Central; Weather.

6.40 ITV Evening News; Weather.

7.00 Emmerdale Jimmy returns home to make peace with Nicola, but a blazing row erupts. Angelica and Elliot take matters into their own hands, and the Kings soon realise they are missing.

7.30 Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (2007) The wizard unites his fellow pupils into a secret army to battle the resurrected Lord Voldemort. Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson and Gary Oldman. **★★★**

10.10 ITV News; Weather. 10.24 ITV Central Weather

10.25 Jaws (1975) A seaside town's police chief has to deal with a giant killer shark preying on tourists. Steven Spielberg's thriller, starring Roy Scheider, Richard Dreyfuss and Robert Shaw. **★★★★**

12.40 Jackpot247 Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.00 ITV Nightscreen** Text-based information service. **5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show** The host invites guests to air their differences over family and relationship issues, and provides them with his own brand of no-nonsense advice. (R)

4.15 Lego's Big Christmas The run-up to the opening of the world's biggest Lego store in London's Leicester Square. (R)

5.15 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather.

5.30 The Simpsons Homer gets a new assistant. (R)

6.00 The Simpsons Lisa begins a whirlwind romance with her intellectual match, while Bart and Milhouse set out to debunk Springfield Elementary's most famous legends. (R)

6.30 Hollyoaks Amy confronts Ryan with the note.

7.00 The Arrivals An intimate insight into the lives of some of the thousands of people that travel through Heathrow's arrivals halls, and the stories told by passengers and awaiting loved ones.

8.00 What Britain Bought in 2016 Mary Portas surveys Britain's spending habits over the past 12 months, joining retail forecasters to revisit some of the must-have items, improbable hits and woeful trends of 2016.

9.00 24 Hours in A&E The staff at St George's A&E deal tend to a 60-year-old bricklayer, a 93-year-old widow, and an 18-year-old dance student, all of whom have relied on support from their friends.

10.00 David Blaine: Beyond Magic The illusionist performs tricks for a host of stars, including David Beckham and Drake. (R)

11.00 The Big Fat Quiz of the Year 2016 Jimmy Carr hosts the annual end-of-year quiz, with Richard Ayoade, Rob Delaney, Mel Giedroyc, Sarah Millican, David Mitchell and Romesh Ranganathan competing. (R)

1.00 FILM: The Girl Who Played with Fire (2009) (English Subtitles) **★★★ 3.10 Gillette World Sport 3.40 Location, Location, Location (R) 4.35 The Restoration Man (R) 5.30 FILM: Mysterious Island (1961) ★★★★★**

3.20 Kelly's Heroes (1970) Second World War adventure, starring Clint Eastwood. **★★★**

6.10 BattleBots: World Championship Eight more battles are held to decide who goes through to the championship stages. With commentary from Kenny Florian and technical insights from NASA personnel.

7.00 World's Strongest Man 2016 Action from the second heat of the competition at Chobe National Park in Botswana. Britain's Eddie Hall took part in this group, alongside Americans Nick Best and Jon Lane. 5 News Update

8.00 Kitten Rescuers Following the day-to-day work of RSPCA inspectors, vets and volunteers as they strive to keep Britain's felines out of harm's way. Part of the Animal Magic season. 5 News Update

9.00 The Most Shocking Celebrity Moments of 2016 Louis Walsh, Michelle Visage, Darren Day, Bobby Norris, Chloe Kahn, Eamonn Holmes, Kerry Katona, Stefan Dennis and Len Goodman recall the year's memorable events.

12.05 Pete Burns: The Last Interview Featuring rare footage from his last TV interview filmed a few months before his death, Pete Burns speaks about his life and his career. (R) **1.05 SuperCasino** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.10 Santa Makes You LOL** Zoe Lyons, Ellie Taylor, Marion Davis and Iain Lee showcase some of the most popular Christmas-themed viral videos currently doing the rounds online. (R) **4.00 Witches: A Century of Murder** Suzannah Lipscomb investigates the origins of the obsession for mass witch hunts and trials that swept the British Isles during the 17th century. (R) **4.45 Great Artists** The life and legacy of Albrecht Durer. (R) **5.10 House Doctor** A brand property near Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. (R) **5.35 House Doctor (R)**

BBC 1



John Humphrys asks the questions in *Celebrity Mastermind*, at 7.00pm

6.00 Breakfast Round-up of national and international news.
9.00 FILM: Turbo (2013) Animated adventure, with the voice of Ryan Reynolds. ★★ ★★ **10.25 Go Jetters Christmas Special: The North Pole** Christmas Eve arrives but Santa's sleigh has vanished. **10.50 FILM: Chicken Run (2000)** Animated comedy, with the voices of Mel Gibson and Julia Sawalha. ★★ ★★ **12.10 Bargain Hunt** From an antiques fair in Norfolk. (R) **12.50 BBC News 1.00 Midlands Today; Weather 1.10 The Moonstone** Mr Bruff tries to stop Rachel and Godfrey's wedding. (R) **1.55 FILM: Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (1989)** Action adventure sequel, starring Harrison Ford and Sean Connery. ★★ ★★

BBC 2



A review of the year, *Charlie Brooker's 2016 Wipe*, on at 9.00pm

6.45 Sign Zone: Coastal Path The explorer visits the Jurassic Coast. Last in the series. (R) **7.15 Sign Zone: Great British Menu** The London and South East hopefuls serve up their desserts. (R) **7.45 FILM: Herbie Goes Bananas (1980)** Disney adventure, starring Cloris Leachman. ★★ **9.15 This Farming Life (R)** **10.15 Money for Nothing** Sarah Moore transforms four more reclaimed items. **11.15 FILM: A Distant Trumpet (1964)** Western, starring Troy Donahue. ★★ ★★ **1.10 FILM: Hidalgo (2004)** A pony express rider enters in a 3,000-mile horse race across the Arabian desert, only to be drawn into political conflict. Period adventure, with Viggo Mortensen and Omar Sharif. ★★

ITV



Andrew Garfield stars in *The Amazing Spider-Man 2*, on at 5.50pm

6.00 Good Morning Britain The team is joined by actor Mark Benton, who talks about his role in new ITV period drama *The Halcyon*. Plus, news, health, entertainment and lifestyle features. **8.30 Lorraine** Entertainment and fashion news. **9.25 FILM: Free Willy 3: The Rescue (1997)** Family adventure, starring Jason James Richter. ★★ ★★ **11.10 FILM: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007)** Comedy, starring Rowan Atkinson. ★ **12.50 ITV Lunchtime News; Weather 1.05 ITV News Central; Weather 1.15 FILM: Peter Pan (2003)** The boy who never grows old whisks Wendy Darling and her brothers away on an adventure to the magical world of Neverland. Fantasy, starring Jeremy Sumpter. ★★ ★

CH4



Kirstie Allsopp presents *Location, Location, Location*, on at 8.00pm

7.15 FILM: Short Circuit 2 (1988) A curious robot meets an old friend and sets off for an adventure in New York. Sci-fi comedy sequel, starring Fisher Stevens and Michael McKean, with the voice of Tim Blaney. ★★ **9.20 The Simpsons** Brazilian football legend Ronaldo guest stars. (R) **9.50 The Simpsons** Homer becomes a member of the paparazzi. (R) **10.20 The Simpsons (R)** **10.50 FILM: The Great Muppet Caper (1981)** Premiere. Chaotic comedy, with John Cleese. ★★ ★★ **12.55 FILM: The Net (1995)** A computer analyst has to prove her true identity after her details are replaced by a false police record on the national database. Thriller, with Sandra Bullock and Jeremy Northam. ★★

CH5



Shirley Bassey features in *World's Greatest Divas*, on at 10.35pm

6.00 Milkshake! 9.30 SpongeBob SquarePants Underwater adventures. **10.05 World's Strongest Man 2016** Action from the second heat of the competition at Chobe National Park in Botswana. Britain's Eddie Hall took part in this group, alongside Americans Nick Best and Jon Lane. (R) **11.05 FILM: West Side Story (1961)** Two teenagers from rival New York street gangs fall in love. Leonard Bernstein's musical based on Romeo and Juliet, with Natalie Wood. ★★ ★★ **2.05 FILM: The Family Man (2000)** A businessman is magically sent into an alternative reality to experience the life he would have lived if he had not left his girlfriend. Drama, with Nicolas Cage and Tea Leoni. ★★ ★

Early View

Prime Time

Late View

3.55 Room on the Broom Animated adaptation of Julia Donaldson's children's book. (R)

4.20 Shrek the Third (2007) The bad-tempered ogre must persuade a rebellious teenager to face up to his responsibilities as heir to the throne. Animated sequel, with the voice of Mike Myers. ★★ ★★

5.45 Pointless Quiz show, hosted by Alexander Armstrong.

6.30 BBC News 6.45 Midlands Today; Weather

7.00 Celebrity Mastermind Michelle Ackley, Joe Fattorini, Danny Clarke and John Finnemore answer questions on Columbo, the line of longitude two degrees west, Garfield Sobers and MR James' ghost stories.

7.30 EastEnders As Ronnie's big day approaches, she encourages Roxy to build bridges with Jack as the sisters secretly make plans.

8.00 Life in the Snow Gordon Buchanan goes in search of animals that live in snowy conditions and have adapted to survive in cold weather, including polar bears, penguins, owls, wolverines and reindeer.

9.00 To Walk Invisible Feature-length drama telling how the Bronte sisters emerged from relative obscurity to pen their celebrated works of literature.

11.00 BBC News 11.10 Midlands Today; Weather

11.20 Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (2008) The globe-trotting archaeologist races against Soviet agents to find a mysterious artefact of untold power. Action adventure sequel, starring Harrison Ford. ★★ ★★

1.15 Weather for the Week Ahead 1.20 BBC News

3.15 Nature's Weirdest Events (R)

4.00 Inside the Factory: Crisps (R)

5.00 Tribes, Predators & Me 6.00 New Zealand: Earth's Mythical Islands (R)

7.00 To the Manor Born: 1979 Christmas Special Living in reduced circumstances does not blind Audrey to her responsibilities as Christmas approaches. Festive special from 1979, starring Penelope Keith and Peter Bowles. (R)

7.30 Christmas University Challenge Two teams of distinguished graduates compete on behalf of their former universities in the final of the festive edition of the quiz. Jeremy Paxman hosts. Last in the series.

8.00 Robot Wars: Battle of the Stars Paralympian Kadeena Cox, football star Robbie Savage, history presenter Neil Oliver and Rizzle Kicks singer Jordan Stephens battle it out in the second of two festive specials.

9.00 Charlie Brooker's 2016 Wipe The broadcaster takes a satirical look back at the past 12 months, a year that has seen Donald Trump being voted into the White House and the BBC losing the Bake Off.

10.00 Cunk on Christmas The Weekly Wipe commentator presents her take on the festive season.

10.30 Kevin Bridges: A Whole Different Story The comedian on stage in Glasgow in 2015, musing on economics, art history and diet tips, as well as the rigours of growing up and adapting to his new-found place in the world.

11.30 A Gert Lush Christmas Dan Colman is about to introduce the woman of his dreams to his family at Christmas, but it may not go to plan. (R)

12.30 Dragons' Den (R) 1.30 Sign Zone: The Great Christmas Bake Off (R) 2.30 Sign Zone: Doctor Who (R) 3.30 This Is BBC Two

3.15 Midsomer Murders A fatal explosion at a haulage yard proves a difficult case for Barnaby, whose suspects include several Territorial Army soldiers, a ruthless businessman and a grieving mother. (R)

5.15 ITV News Central; Weather.

5.30 ITV Evening News; Weather.

5.50 The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (2014) Premiere. The superhero battles a foe with electrical powers, while an old friend presents an even greater threat. Action adventure sequel, with Andrew Garfield and Emma Stone. ★★ ★★

8.30 Emmerdale Kerry gets drunk and flirts with a man at the Woolpack's singles night, hoping to make Dan jealous. But when her suitor turns nasty, Joanie takes matters into her own hands.

9.00 Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (2009) The wizard must uncover the secrets of Lord Voldemort's past to try to end the evil sorcerer's reign of terror. Fantasy adventure sequel, with Daniel Radcliffe and Michael Gambon. ★★ ★★

11.00 ITV News; Weather. 11.19 ITV Central Weather 11.20 Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (2009) Concluded. ★★ ★★

12.20 The Chase Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on quiz expert the Chaser and secure a cash prize. (R) **1.05 Jackpot247** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.00 ITV NightScreen** Text-based information service. **5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show** The host invites guests to air their differences over family and relationship issues, and provides them with his own brand of no-nonsense advice. (R)

3.15 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun Finding a retirement home in Menorca on a budget of £165,000.

4.15 Posh Pawn at Christmas The team is put through their paces by gymnast Beth Tweddle. (R)

5.15 5.30 The Simpsons A department store Santa grants Lisa's Christmas wish. (R)

6.00 The Simpsons Homer and the family are forced to leave town. (R)

6.30 Hollyoaks Amy throws Ryan out of the house.

7.00 The Ballroom Boys Cameras follow young male ballroom dancers from south Wales as they head towards the biggest competition of their dancing lives - the UK Championships in Bournemouth.

8.00 Location, Location, Location New series. Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer help couples looking for homes in Birmingham, including a pair who have already seen 52 properties and cannot find the perfect pad.

9.00 Guy Martin: Cycling Home for Christmas The bike enthusiast takes on his toughest challenge yet as he cycles around the entire 4,800-mile coast of Great Britain in just 20 days - a record that has stood since 1984.

10.35 Bruce Springsteen: In His Words Bio-documentary setting out to reveal the man behind the music, featuring home video from his youth, and footage from his early years performing solo in Greenwich Village.

12.05 It Was Alright in the 1970s (R) 1.00 FILM: The Girl Who Kicked the Hornets' Nest (2010) (English Subtitles) ★★ ★★ **3.30 The Windsors Christmas Special (R) 3.55 Jamie's Comfort Food Bites (R) 4.05 Location, Location, Location (R) 5.00 FILM: It Came from Beneath the Sea (1954)** (b/w) ★★ ★★

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Friday 30 December

BBC 1



Sue Barker hosts the quiz show, A Question of Sport, on at 7.30pm

6.00 Breakfast Round-up of national and international news.
9.00 FILM: Shark Tale (2004) Animated comedy, with the voice of Will Smith. **★ ★ 10.20 Wallace & Gromit: The Wrong Trousers** The animated duo fall foul of a villainous penguin. (R) **10.50 FILM: Flushed Away (2006)** Animated comedy, featuring the voice of Hugh Jackman. **★ ★ ★ 12.10 Bargain Hunt** Two teams compete at Ardingly Antiques Fair in West Sussex. (R) **1.10 BBC News 1.25 Midlands Today; Weather 1.35 The Moonstone** Franklin puts his life at risk to prove his innocence. Last in the series. (R) **2.20 FILM: Kung Fu Panda 2 (2011)** Animated comedy sequel, with the voice of Jack Black. **★ ★ ★**

BBC 2



Dustin Hoffman stars in Roald Dahl's Esio Trot, shown at 6.30pm

6.25 Meerkats: Secrets of an Animal Superstar The story of a 20-year study of the animals' behaviour. (R) **7.25 Sign Zone: Great British Menu (R) 7.55 Sign Zone: Great British Menu (R) 8.25 FILM: Short Circuit (1986)** Sci-fi comedy adventure, starring Steve Guttenberg. **★ ★ ★ 10.00 This Farming Life (R) 11.00 Money for Nothing 12.00 FILM: 84 Charing Cross Road (1987)** Romantic drama, starring Anne Bancroft and Anthony Hopkins. **★ ★ ★ 1.35 FILM: Ladies in Lavender (2004)** The lives of two elderly spinsters living peacefully by the Cornish coast are thrown into turmoil by a Polish castaway. Period drama, with Judi Dench, Maggie Smith and Daniel Brühl. **★ ★ ★**

ITV



Roxy Shahidi sars as Leyla Harding in Emmerdale, on at 7.00pm

6.00 Good Morning Britain 8.30 Lorraine Entertainment and fashion news. **9.25 FILM: Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010)** Comedy sequel, starring Chris O'Donnell. **★ 11.00 FILM: Dirty Rotten Scoundrels (1988)** Comedy, starring Michael Caine and Steve Martin. **★ ★ ★ 1.05 All Star Family Fortunes** With Keith Duffy and Jennie McAlpine. (R) **1.50 ITV Lunchtime News; Weather. 2.05 FILM: The Dam Busters (1954)** An engineer designs an ingenious bouncing bomb to destroy major dams in Germany's industrial heartland. Fact-based Second World War drama, with Michael Redgrave and Richard Todd. (b/w) **★ ★ ★**

Ch4



Gregory Peck stars in the horror, The Omen, shown at 2.00am

6.20 FILM: The Parent Trap (1961) Disney comedy, starring Hayley Mills. **★ ★ ★ 8.35 The Simpsons** Three stories of revenge. (R) **9.05 The Simpsons (R) 9.35 FILM: A League of Their Own (1992)** An alcoholic former professional player reluctantly agrees to coach an all-female baseball team during the Second World War. Comedy drama, with Geena Davis, Tom Hanks and Madonna. **★ ★ ★ 12.05 FILM: Cutthroat Island (1995)** A tough female pirate enlists the help of an educated slave in beating her double-crossing uncle to buried treasure. Adventure, with Geena Davis. **★ ★ 2.30 Roald Dahl's Most Marvellous Book** David Walliams presents a look at the author's most popular books. (R)

Ch5



Helen and Barlie feature in Britain's Cleverest Dog, on at 8.00pm

6.00 Milkshake! 9.25 SpongeBob SquarePants Double bill. SpongeBob must recover a secret ingredient. **10.00 World's Strongest Man 2016** Action from the third heat of the competition. (R) **11.00 Penguins Make You Laugh Out Loud (R) 12.00 Santa Makes You LOL** Christmas-themed viral videos currently dominating the nation's bandwidth. (R) **1.00 Christmas Makes You Laugh Out Loud** Festive-themed videos that have taken the internet by storm. (R) **2.00 FILM: Labyrinth (1986)** A teenager travels through a magical maze to rescue her baby brother from a band of goblins and their sinister king. Fantasy adventure, starring Jennifer Connelly and David Bowie. **★ ★ ★**

Early View

Prime Time

Late View

3.40 Stick Man (R) 4.10 Wreck-It Ralph (2012) A video game villain ventures into other arcade worlds looking for the chance to be a hero. Animated adventure, with the voice of John C. Reilly. **★ ★ ★**
5.45 Pointless 6.30 BBC News 6.45 Midlands Today; Weather 7.00 Celebrity Mastermind Tyger Drew-Honey, Tom Ravenscroft, Maria McElrane and Terry Deary are quizzed on specialist subjects including socialite Unity Mitford and GK Chesterton's Father Brown stories.
7.30 A Question of Sport Sue Barker asks the questions in the light-hearted quiz, with celebrity guests joining team captains Matt Dawson and Phil Tufnell.
8.00 EastEnders Things come to a head for Lee as he finally reaches breaking point, and Max's return continues to cause friction in the Square as loyalties and motives are questioned.
8.30 Captain America: The Winter Soldier (2014) Premiere. The superhuman soldier battles a mysterious cyborg assassin as he uncovers a sinister conspiracy. Comic-book thriller sequel, starring Chris Evans. **★ ★ ★**
10.40 BBC News 10.50 Midlands Today; Weather 11.00 Still Game Festive episode in which Jack and Victor face the prospect of a gloomy Hogmanay stuck in the lift at Osprey Heights, and console themselves by reminiscing about New Years past. (R)
11.30 Mrs Brown's Boys Christmas Special (R) 12.10 The NFL Show 12.40 FILM: Hollywood Homicide (2003) ★ ★ ★ 2.30 Weather for the Week Ahead 2.35 BBC News

3.15 Nature's Weirdest Events An Australian town plagued by giant bats. (R)
4.00 Inside the Factory The production of baked beans. (R)
5.00 Flog It! The team visits Greater Manchester. (R)
5.30 The Marvellous World of Roald Dahl The story of Roald Dahl's life, related via his own inimitable voice. (R)
6.30 Roald Dahl's Esio Trot Dustin Hoffman and Judi Dench star in this adaptation of Roald Dahl's story about retired bachelor Mr Hoppy, who hits upon a cunning plan to romance his neighbour Mrs Silver. (R)
8.00 Judi Dench: All the World's Her Stage Billy Connolly, Samantha Bond, Harvey Weinstein and Ian McKellan are among those reminiscing about the veteran actress in this celebration of her 60-year career.
9.00 The Real Marigold on Tour: Japan Part two of two. Chef Rosemary Shrager, actress Miriam Margolyes, dancer Wayne Sleep and darts champion Bobby George investigate retirement in Japan.
10.00 QI Guests David Baddiel, Carlad Lloyd and Ross Noble join regular panellist Alan Davies and host Sandi Toksvig to contemplate the theme "nature and nurture".
10.30 Dara O Briain Crowd Tickler The comedian performs at the Hammersmith Apollo, as part of his 2015 tour, demonstrating his skill at expertly crafted routines, cracking one-liners and spontaneous gag-making.
11.30 Stag A timid schoolteacher tags along on his brother-in-law's stag weekend in the Scottish Highlands, which quickly turns messy. (R)
12.30 Stag (R) 1.30 Stag (R) 2.30 Sign Zone: Victorian Bakers at Christmas (R) 3.30 Sign Zone: Wild Tales from the Village (R) 4.30 This Is BBC Two

4.30 Midsomer Murders When a dairy worker is crushed to death by a giant round of cheese at the home of the world-famous Midsomer Blue, Barnaby and Jones are soon on the case. (R)
6.25 ITV News Central; Weather. 6.40 ITV Evening News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale Kasim admits to Leyla that he feels Finn is coming on too strong. Pete tries to persuade his brother not to get too carried away, unaware he is planning a very grand public gesture.
7.30 Coronation Street Anna has a fall and is knocked unconscious while babysitting Jack, and Mary wonders if she is doing the right thing as she prepares to leave for South Africa.
8.00 Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (2010) The dark lord Voldemort rises to ultimate power over the magical world, so the teenage wizard and his friends set out on a mission to find the magical horcruxes - artefacts containing parts of the evil wizard's soul that hold the key to destroying him. The first half of the two-part conclusion to the fantasy saga, starring Daniel Radcliffe, Ralph Fiennes, Emma Watson and Rupert Grint. **★ ★ ★**
10.40 ITV News; Weather. 11.04 ITV Central Weather 11.05 Jaws 2 (1978) A man-eating shark menaces teenagers adrift off a seaside resort, while the police chief tries to alert the community. Thriller sequel, starring Roy Scheider and Lorraine Gary. **★ ★ ★**
1.10 Jackpot247 Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.00 ITV Nightscreen** Text-based information service.

4.00 The Secret Life of the Zoo at Christmas Ten brave keepers deal with a massive reticulated python that is off its food. (R)
5.00 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather.
5.30 The Simpsons With the voice of Eric Idle. (R)
6.00 Hollyoaks Jack is defeated when his whole family decide to go home instead of fleeing to Ireland and Eva has a plan to make it look like Jack has killed himself at the Osborne house.
7.00 Noel's Sell or Swap Live Noel Edmonds rekindles elements of his 1970s children's show Multi-Coloured Swap Shop, giving guests the chance to bid on an eclectic mix of items.
8.00 Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast New series. Jimmy Doherty tries to attract wild bees to his farm, while Jamie Oliver cooks up a Thai green curry and shows comedian John Bishop how to make the best lasagne ever.
9.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown New Year Special John Richardson and Richard Osman take on Johnny Vegas and Sara Pascoe. As Jimmy Carr hosts a special edition with a Hogmanay theme. David O'Doherty helps out in Dictionary Corner.
10.00 Rude Tube: Welcome to 2017 Top 100 countdown celebrating the best clips of the year, including a zombie apocalypse and a boxer dog mannequin challenge. Hosted by Alex Zane.
12.05 Tattoo Fixers at Christmas 1.00 Celebrity First Dates With Brad Simpson, Bernie Clifton, Keegan Hirst and Natasha Hamilton. (R) **2.00 FILM: The Omen (1976)** Horror, starring Gregory Peck. **★ ★ ★ 3.55 The Windsors Christmas Special 4.25 Countdown (R) 5.05 FILM: 20 Million Miles to Earth (1957)** Sci-fi thriller, starring William Hopper. (b/w) **★ ★ ★**

4.00 Planet of the Apes (2001) Sci-fi adventure remake, starring Mark Wahlberg. **★ ★ ★**
6.15 BattleBots: World Championship Molly McGrath introduces four more three-minute battles in the arena, to decide which teams will be going through to the next round.
7.00 World's Strongest Man 2016 Action from the fourth heat of the competition at Chobe National Park in Botswana. Britain's Laurence Shahlaei took part, having previously retired from the sport due to injury. **5 News Update**
8.00 Britain's Cleverest Dog Brainbox pets and others animals, from a canine Einstein that has mastered a shape-sorting puzzle to a pet raccoon that can ride a bicycle and push a toddler's scooter. **5 News Update**
9.00 Flowers in the Attic 2: Petals on the Wind (2014) Premiere. A woman returns to the site of her traumatic childhood, planning to take revenge on her mother by seducing her husband. Drama, starring Heather Graham and Rose Mclver. Includes **5 News Update** at 10.00. **★ ★ ★**
10.45 The Blind Side (2009) A couple take in a homeless teenager and help him fund his education and train to be an American football player. Fact-based drama, with Sandra Bullock and Quinton Aaron. **★ ★ ★**
1.05 SuperCasino Live interactive gaming. **3.10 The Yorkshire Vet at Christmas** A festive trip to Skeldale with vets Julian Norton and Peter Wright. (R) **4.00 Eamonn & Ruth: A Million Pound Christmas** The most expensive ways in which people can enjoy the season of goodwill. (R) **4.45 Great Artists (R) 5.10 House Doctor (R) 5.35 House Doctor (R)**

New Year's Eve

BBC 1



Marion Cotillard guests on The Graham Norton Show, at 10.35pm

6.00 Breakfast A round-up of national and international news, plus sports reports, weather forecasts and arts and entertainment features. Including NewsWatch at 7.45. **10.00 Saturday Kitchen** Matt Tebbutt hosts a New Year's special, with guests chefs Galton Blackiston and Yotam Ottolenghi, and Naga Munchetty. **11.30 James Martin: Home Comforts** With guest Camilla Dallerup. (R) **12.00 Football Focus** Dan Walker looks ahead to the fixtures over the New Year weekend. **1.00 BBC News: Weather. 1.15 Sport Relief 2016: The Final Score** Another chance to see the best moments from this year's event. (R) **2.15 The Great Christmas Bake Off** Part two of two. Chetna, Howard, James M and Janet compete. (R)

BBC 2



Life in Polar Bear Town with Gordon Buchanan, shown at 8.00pm

6.30 This Farming Life The farmers reflect on what each season means to them. (R) **7.30 The NFL Show** Mark Chapman looks at the major stories shaping the NFL. (R) **8.00 Robot Wars: Battle of the Stars** Four celebrity teams design their dream robots and battle it out in the arena. (R) **9.00 Robot Wars: Battle of the Stars (R)** **10.00 FILM: You Again (2010)** Comedy, starring Kristen Bell. ★★ **11.45 Gordon Buchanan: Elephant Family & Me (R)** **12.45 Gordon Buchanan: Elephant Family & Me** Part two of two. Gordon Buchanan encounters African elephants in the wild. (R) **1.45 FILM: We Dive at Dawn (1943)** Second World War adventure, starring John Mills. (b/w) ★★

ITV



Rochelle Humes presents Ninja Warrior UK, shown at 7.00pm

6.00 CITY: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids (R)** **6.20 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures (R)** **6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures (R)** **6.45 Sooty (R)** **6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story (R)** **7.00 Super 4 (R)** **7.15 Oddbods (R)** **7.20 Nerds & Monsters (R)** **7.35 Horrid Henry (R)** **7.50 Horrid Henry (R)** **8.00 Looped (R)** **8.15 Looped (R)** **8.30 Be Cool, Scooby-Do! 8.55 Adventure Time (R)** **9.10 Adventure Time (R)** **9.25 Thunderbirds Are Go 9.55 FILM: Beethoven's 2nd (1993)** ★★ **11.30 FILM: Mannequin (1987)** ★★ **1.15 ITV News and Weather: Weather. 1.30 Midsomer Murders** A man is stabbed to death during a ghost-hunting party. (R)

Ch4



Alan Carr's New Year Spectacular 2016, shown at 9.00pm

6.35 FILM: Swiss Family Robinson (1960) An 18th-century family is shipwrecked on an island off the coast of Papua New Guinea. Disney adventure based on the novel by Johann David Wyss, with John Mills and James MacArthur. ★★ **8.55 The Big Bang Theory (R)** **9.20 The Big Bang Theory (R)** **9.50 FILM: Big Miracle (2012)** Fact-based drama, starring Drew Barrymore. ★★ **12.00 FILM: Hachi: A Dog's Tale (2009)** Fact-based family drama, starring Richard Gere. ★★ **1.50 The Simpsons (R)** **2.15 The Simpsons** Santa's Little Helper is enrolled in the Animal Police Academy. (R) **2.45 FILM: Muppet Treasure Island (1996)** Musical puppet comedy, with Tim Curry. ★★

Ch5



A profile of the comedian, Ken Dodd - In His Own Words, 6.00pm

6.00 Milkshake! Programmes for children. **9.15 FILM: Ben-Hur (1959)** A Jewish prince is betrayed by his Roman friend and sold into slavery, but returns years later to seek revenge. Oscar-winning epic, starring Charlton Heston, Stephen Boyd, Haya Harareet, Jack Hawkins, Hugh Griffith, Martha Scott, Finlay Currie, Terence Longden, Frank Thring and Claude Heater. ★★ **1.20 FILM: Wyatt Earp (1994)** The story of the legendary lawman, from his youth to his days as deputy marshal of Tombstone and the gunfight at the OK Corral. Western, starring Kevin Costner, Dennis Quaid, Gene Hackman, Michael Madsen, Isabella Rossellini, Bill Pullman and Catherine O'Hara. ★★

Early View

Prime Time

Late View

3.15 Darcy / Bussell: Looking for Margot (R)

4.15 Final Score

5.20 Top of the Pops New Year's Eve Special 2016

6.20 Peter Pan Goes Wrong

7.25 BBC News Today; Weather

7.45 Pointless Celebrities

8.35 Casualty Rumours spread about Sebastian's accusation against Dylan, leading to a public confrontation.

9.25 The National Lottery Live Sophie Ellis-Bextor performs live in the studio, as Gaby Roslin introduces the all-important Lotto and Thunderball draws.

9.35 Mrs Brown's Boys Christmas Special Grandad's health causes concern, Mrs Brown steps in when a fire at the salon leaves Rory and Dino with nowhere to work, while Dermot faces stiff competition to win a contract. (R)

10.05 BBC News: Weather

10.25 The Graham Norton Show The host is joined by Assassin's Creed stars Michael Fassbender and Marion Cotillard, James McAvoy, Frank Skinner, and Olympic rowers Gary and Paul O'Donovan.

11.25 Robbie Rocks Big Ben Live Melvin Odoom presents live from Central Hall in Westminster, where Robbie Williams prepares to welcome in the new year with a concert, featuring some of his most memorable hits.

12.00 New Year's Eve Fireworks

12.15 Robbie Rocks Big Ben Live

12.45 Miranda Hart - My What I Call Live Show (R) **1.45 Williams & Friend Christmas Special (R)** **2.25 FILM: Jump (2012)** ★★ **3.40 Weather for the Week Ahead 3.45 BBC News**

3.20 The Eagle Has Landed (1976) A Nazi agent plans to kidnap Churchill as the prime minister spends the weekend in a Norfolk village. Wartime adventure, starring Michael Caine, Donald Sutherland and Robert Duvall. ★★

5.30 The Olympic Golden Ball Highlights from the sporting award ceremony held at Battersea Park.

6.00 What Women Want (2000) A womanising executive gets a new insight into life when he accidentally gains the ability to hear the thoughts of the opposite sex. Romantic comedy, with Mel Gibson and Helen Hunt. ★★

8.00 Life in Polar Bear Town with Gordon Buchanan The wildlife cameraman visits the town of Churchill on the shores of Canada's Hudson Bay, where packs of polar bears gather every autumn to prepare for their winter hunt.

9.00 Dragons' Den: Pitches to Riches? Richard Osman relives some of the most intense moments from the past two years in the Den, and catches up with former applicants putting their business plans into action.

10.00 Match of the Day Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including the top-of-the-table clash between Liverpool and Manchester City at Anfield.

11.20 Jools' Annual Hootenanny The veteran entertainer returns with his annual New Year's Eve extravaganza, with guest performances by Chaka Khan, Christine & the Queens, Roy Wood, Rag'n'Bone Man and many more.

1.25 Best of Glastonbury 2016 Another chance to see some of the highlights from this year's festival. (R) **3.30 This Is BBC Two Preview** of upcoming programmes from BBC Two.

3.30 The Chase Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on quiz expert the Chaser and secure a cash prize. (R)

4.30 ITV News Central; Weather.

4.45 ITV News and Weather

5.00 World of Sport Wrestling The programme returns after more than 30 years for a one-off special featuring some of the UK's leading grapplers, including Grado and Viper. Presented by Jim Ross and Alex Shane.

7.00 Ninja Warrior UK New series. Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara return with the obstacle-course challenge, as more competitors put their strength, speed and courage to the test.

8.00 Take Me Out Celebrity Special Former international rugby player Thom Evans, The Xtra Factor's Roman Kemp, and Five's Ritchie Neville all enter Paddy McGuinness's "love lift", in the hope of securing a date.

9.00 Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2 (2011) The young wizard and his friends face their final battle with the forces of the dark lord Voldemort. Conclusion of the fantasy saga, starring Daniel Radcliffe and Ralph Fiennes. ★★

11.30 ITV News and Weather The headlines, followed by Big Ben.

12.15 The Chase Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on ruthless quiz genius the Chaser and secure a cash prize. (R) **1.10 Tipping Point** Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard, in which contestants answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine in the hope of winning up to £10,000. (R) **2.00 Rebound** Sean Fletcher hosts the quickfire quiz. (R) **2.50 ITV Nightscreen**

4.50 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather.

5.00 Amazing Spaces Snow Special The host embarks on a snow-covered design odyssey in Western Canada. (R)

6.00 Winnie-the-Pooh: The Most Famous Bear in the World Alan Titchmarsh celebrates Winnie-the-Pooh's 90th birthday by visiting the locations that inspired author AA Milne to dream up the Hundred Acre Wood and its inhabitants.

7.00 Britain's Best Loved Sitcoms Black Books and Friday Night Dinner star Tamsin Greig narrates the results of a nationwide, intergenerational poll seeking to identify the nation's most revered sitcom.

8.00 Peter Cook & Dudley Moore: The Missing Sketches Rob Brydon gives a selection of celebrity fans, friends and colleagues a chance to see a selection of long-lost sketches performed by Peter Cook and Dudley Moore.

9.00 Alan Carr's New Year Spectacular 2016 The chat show host prepares for 2017 with help from special guests including Danny Dyer, Keith Lemon, Greg Rutherford, and musical performances by Professor Green and Teikis.

11.05 Gogglebox 2016 A look back at some of the highlights of this year's series, featuring regular armchair presenters Leon and June, Christopher and Stephen, and the Michaels family. (R)

12.35 The Big Fat Quiz of the Year Jimmy Carr hosts the annual end-of-year quiz. (R) **2.30 The Restoration Man** Transforming a derelict Shropshire farmhouse into a family home. (R) **3.25 Location, Location, Location** Looking for properties in Windsor and Maidenhead. (R) **4.20 Countdown** **5.05 FILM: That Darn Cat (1997)** Disney comedy remake, starring Christina Ricci. ★★

4.55 5 News Weekend The day's headlines.

5.00 Another Audience with Ken Dodd The frantic funnymen returns. (R)

6.00 Ken Dodd - In His Own Words Profile of the comedian, incorporating some of his best performances alongside rare archive interviews and contributions from friends, colleagues and fellow comics.

8.00 World's Strongest Man 2016 Action from the final heat of the competition at Chobe National Park in Botswana, as reigning champion Brian Shaw made his bow in this year's contest, hoping to retain his title.

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce action from the latest fixtures, which included Huddersfield Town v Blackburn Rovers and Brentford v Norwich City.

10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the latest matches in Leagues One and Two, including Bolton Wanderers v Scunthorpe United.

10.30 Pulp Fiction (1994) A series of interlinked stories about the Los Angeles underworld. Quentin Tarantino's crime drama, starring John Travolta, Samuel L. Jackson, Uma Thurman and Bruce Willis. Part of the Tarantino's Bloody New Year strand. ★★

1.20 FILM: Reservoir Dogs (1992) A failed robbery ends in a bloodbath, and as the criminals lie low they try to work out whether someone betrayed them. Quentin Tarantino's thriller, with Harvey Keitel and Tim Roth. Part of the Tarantino's Bloody New Year strand. ★★ **3.05 SuperCasino** Live interactive gaming. **4.10 Kitten Rescuers** Following the work of RSPCA inspectors, vets and volunteers. (R) **5.00 House Doctor (R)** **5.50 Roary the Racing Car (R)**

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New Year's Day

BBC 1



David Jason stars in the comedy, Still Open All Hours, on at 8.00pm

6.00 Breakfast 8.15 Match of the Day (R) 9.40 FILM: The Princess and the Frog (2009) ★★★ 11.10 FILM: The Pirates! In an Adventure with Scientists! (2012) ★★★ 12.35 Revolting Rhymes Part one of two. Three animations based on poems from Roald Dahl's children's book. (R) 1.05 Revolting Rhymes The second of two animations based on Roald Dahl's children's book. (R) 1.35 BBC News: Weather. 1.50 The Archbishop of Canterbury's New Year Message The Most Rev Justin Welby reflects on the past year. 1.55 Songs of Praise Aled Jones visits Henry VIII's Hampton Court Palace. 2.30 Countryfile Anita Rani visits Malham Cove in the Yorkshire Dales.

BBC 2



Deborah Meaden features in Dragons' Den, on at 8.00pm

6.00 Countryfile Ellie Harrison marks the centenary of Alf Wight, better known as James Herriot. (R) **6.55 FILM: Camelot (1967)** King Arthur is happily married to Queen Guenevere, but the arrival of Sir Lancelot spells trouble for their relationship. Musical, starring Richard Harris and Vanessa Redgrave. **★★★ 9.45 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites** Matt Tebbutt presents highlights of the series. **11.15 New Year's Day Vienna Concert 2017** A live concert by the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra. **12.45 Grand Tours Shorts** Paul Merton explores Blaven Caves. (R) **12.55 Matthew Bourne's Sleeping Beauty (R) 2.40 Alan Rickman: Talking Pictures** A tribute to the actor.

ITV



Following the prince's charity work, Prince Harry, on at 10.45pm

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids (R) 6.20 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures (R) 6.45 Sooty (R). 6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story (R) 7.00 Super 4 (R) 7.20 Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters (R) 7.35 Scrambled!: Horrid Henry (R) 7.50 Scrambled!: A Grizzly New Year's Tale: The Crystal Eye (R) 8.30 Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go 8.55 Scrambled!: Adventure Time (R) 9.10 Scrambled!: Adventure Time (R) 9.25 FILM: Carry On Cleo (1964) ★★★ 11.10 Chopping Block (R) 12.10 ITV News and Weather 12.15 All Star Family Fortunes (R) 1.00 ITV Racing Live**

Ch4



Documentary, Titanic: The New Evidence, shown at 8.00pm

6.40 FILM: The Love Bug (1968) ★★★ 8.35 The Big Bang Theory (R) 9.00 The Big Bang Theory (R) 9.30 The Big Bang Theory (R) 10.00 New Year's Brunch With guests Kara Tointon, Rick Edwards, Will Mellor and Dr Xand van Tulleken. **12.55 The Simpsons** Homer befriends a group of holidaying celebrities. (R) **1.25 The Simpsons** With the voice of rapper Ludacris. (R) **1.55 The Simpsons** Mr Burns replaces the power plant employees with robots. (R) **2.20 We're Going on a Bear Hunt** Animated adventure, based on Michael Rosen's book of the same name. (R) **2.50 Gogglesprogs Christmas Special** Young TV viewers appraise the year's television programmes. (R)

Ch5



Haftor Bjornsson, World's Strongest Man 2016, on at 7.00pm

6.00 Milkshake! 8.10 Football on 5: The Championship George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce action from the latest fixtures, which included Huddersfield Town v Blackburn Rovers and Brentford v Norwich City. (R) **9.15 Football on 5: Goal Rush** The latest matches from Leagues One and Two. (R) **9.45 Big Bash Cricket** Live Perth Scorchers v Sydney Thunder. Live coverage of the Australian Twenty20 encounter at the Western Australia Cricket Association Ground. **1.25 FILM: 101 Dalmatians (1996)** An evil fashion designer is bent on turning a litter of puppies into a magnificent fur coat. Disney comedy adventure remake, starring Glenn Close and Jeff Daniels. **★★★**

Early View



3.30 Planet Earth II: A World of Wonder A compilation of some of the most spectacular footage from the series.

5.00 Monsters University (2013) Premiere. Student creatures Mike and Sulley must work together to complete their course in scaring kids. Animated comedy prequel, with the voices of John Goodman and Billy Crystal. **★★★**

6.35 BBC News
6.50 Midlands Today; Weather

7.00 EastEnders Ronnie and Jack's wedding day finally arrives, but with Roxy continuing to cause trouble it looks like the happy couple's dream day may well end in a nightmare.

8.00 Still Open All Hours Granville buys a batch of devices that are supposed to create positive emotions. A local underworld boss is looking for Leroy after his girlfriend makes Mrs Hussein jealous.

8.30 Sherlock New series. The detective suspects a more sinister purpose behind the destruction of images of Margaret Thatcher, which may be connected to Mary Watson's dark past as an assassin.

10.00 Mrs Brown's Boys New Year Special Bono is being bullied at school and Mrs Brown's attempts to help her grandson only make things worse. Cathy's French boyfriend does not make a great first impression.

10.35 BBC News
10.50 Midlands Today; Weather

11.00 Match of the Day 2 Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, as Watford hosted Tottenham Hotspur at Vicarage Road and Arsenal played Crystal Palace at the Emirates Stadium.

12.05 Peter Pan Goes Wrong A spoof, am-dram production of JM Barrie's classic children's fantasy. (R) **1.05 Weather for the Week Ahead 1.10 BBC News**

3.10 Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time (2010) Fantasy adventure, starring Jake Gyllenhaal. **★★★**

4.55 Sign Zone: The Archbishop of Canterbury's New Year Message (R)

5.00 Wild Tales from the Village Animals that live near a remote French village. (R)

6.00 Croft and Perry: The Sitcoms (R)

6.50 Dad's Army (R)
7.25 Dad's Army Mainwaring and Wilson decide to recruit women into the platoon to take care of the less demanding tasks, but the captain loses his heart to an attractive widow. (R)

8.00 Dragons' Den The panel casts judgment on a bespoke gifting service, a ticket comparison website, and a new safety device created by a pair of wealthy entrepreneurs. Presented by Evan Davis.

9.00 Thailand: Earth's Tropical Paradise New series. Series exploring the wildlife and culture of the Southeast Asian nation. The first episode examines the south of the country and the role of spirituality in daily life.

10.00 What We Did on Our Holiday (2014) Premiere. Three children give away all the secrets of their parents' troubled marriage while visiting their grandfather. Comedy drama, starring Rosamund Pike. **★★★**

11.30 The Real Marigold on Tour: Japan Part two of two. Chef Rosemary Shrager, actress Miriam Margolyes, dancer Wayne Sleep and darts champion Bobby George investigate retirement in Japan. (R)

12.30 Judi Dench: All the World's Her Stage A look back over the actress' 60-year career. (R) **1.30 FILM: Henry V (1989) ★★★ 3.45 Sign Zone: Holby City (R) 4.40 This Is BBC Two 5.50 Bargain Hunt (R)**

3.30 Ninja Warrior UK Obstacle course challenge show, presented by Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara. (R)

4.30 E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial (1982) Sci-fi fantasy, with Henry Thomas. **★★★★**

6.40 ITV News and Weather
7.00 Diversity Presents Steal the Show Members of the public compete for the chance to perform with the street dance troupe. Plus, workplace dance-offs and music from the Vamps. Presented by Ashley Banjo.

8.00 Coronation Street Anna is horrified when she regains consciousness and finds Phelan looming over her, while Johnny makes an announcement that shocks his party guests.

8.30 Morecambe and Wise's Funniest Moments A countdown of the duo's 20 greatest moments. With contributions from David Walliams, Glenda Jackson, Paddy McGuinness, Angela Rippon and Andre Previn.

10.30 ITV News and Weather
10.45 Prince Harry Documentary following the prince on his return to the southern African country of Lesotho to continue the work of Sentebale, the charity he set up there a decade ago. (R)

11.45 Premiership Rugby Union Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman present action from the 12th round of fixtures, including Newcastle Falcons v Wasps, Bath v Exeter Chiefs, and Leicester Tigers v Saracens.

12.40 Jackpot247 Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.00 Chopping Block (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show** Guests air their differences. (R)

3.50 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather.

3.55 Mirror Mirror (2012) Fantasy, starring Julia Roberts. **★★★**

6.00 Rio2 (2014) Premiere. Parrots Jewel and Blu and their three chicks leave home to make a journey up the Amazon. Animated comedy sequel, with the voices of Jesse Eisenberg and Anne Hathaway. **★★★**

8.00 Titanic: The New Evidence Investigative journalist and Titanic expert Senan Molony examines recently recovered photographs of the doomed ship, which provide fresh insight into the reasons for its sinking.

9.00 Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (2011) Premiere. The secret agent team is falsely implicated in a bombing, and pursues the real terrorist around the globe. Action adventure sequel, starring Tom Cruise and Jeremy Renner. **★★★**

11.35 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown New Year Special Jon Richardson and Richard Osman take on Johnny Vegas and Sara Pascoe. as Jimmy Carr hosts a special edition with a Hogmanay theme. David O'Doherty helps out in Dictionary Corner. (R)

12.35 Rude Tube: Welcome to 2017 Top 100 countdown celebrating the best clips of the year, including a zombie apocalypse and a boxer dog mannequin challenge. Hosted by Alex Zane. (R) **2.25 Trigger Happy Christmas** Special Dom Joly returns with a festive edition of the hidden-camera show, featuring new characters alongside the "big mobile man", who now has a smartphone, with apps and video-calling. (R) **2.55 Hollyoaks** Drama following the lives and loves of young people in Chester. (R) **5.05 Jamie's Comfort Food Bites** Lobster macaroni and cheese. (R) **5.15 FILM: King Kong (1976)** Fantasy adventure remake, starring Jeff Bridges and Jessica Lange. ★

3.30 Dirty Dancing (1987) Romantic drama, with Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey. **★★★**

5.35 The Adele Story A profile of the chart-topping, Oscar-winning pop singer. (R)

7.00 World's Strongest Man 2016 The Grand Final, which took place at Chobe National Park, Botswana, as the 10 competitors who made it past the heats went head to head for the trophy. Last in the series.

7.55 5 News Weekend Round-up of the day's headlines from around the world.

8.00 Legally Blonde (2001) A dizzy teenager enrolls at Harvard to try to prove to her ex-boyfriend that she is not stupid, but finds herself out of her depth. Comedy, with Reese Witherspoon and Luke Wilson. **★★★**

9.45 Whitney Houston: A Tragic Love (2015) Premiere. Biopic of Whitney Houston, examining her troubled marriage to singer Bobby Brown and the pressure of fame on their relationship. Starring Yaya DaCosta and Arlen Escarpeta. **★★★**

11.30 The Last Hours of Whitney Houston Dr Richard Shepherd investigates the death of the singer in February 2012, with the post-mortem revealing the damage caused by years of drug and alcohol abuse. (R)

12.30 Lip Sync Battle UK: Katherine Ryan v Kayvan Novak The two comedians compete. (R) **12.55 SuperCasino** Live interactive gaming. **4.00 Now That's Funny!** Internet-sourced videos with an amusing family friendly hook. (R) **4.50 Divine Designs** The architecture of Winchester Cathedral. (R) **5.15 Divine Designs (R) 5.40 Angels of Jarm Ot** shows off by climbing a tree. (R) **5.50 Roary the Racing Car** Helleie is accused of cheating. (R)



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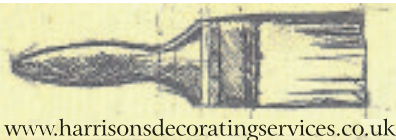
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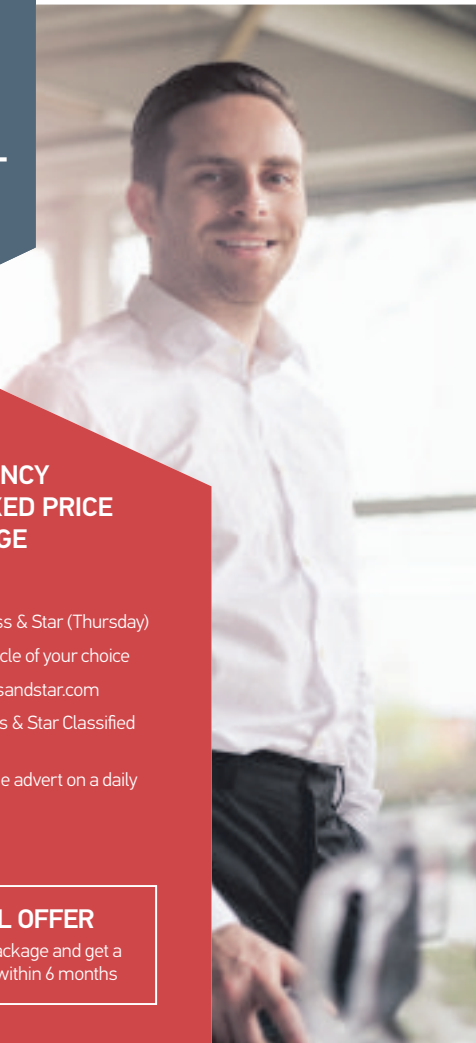
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8 Motoring

cars under £1500

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01902 893673.



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07963 753038.



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MUST BE SEEN

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1ST TO SEE WILL BUY

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01562 752815.



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cars over £1500

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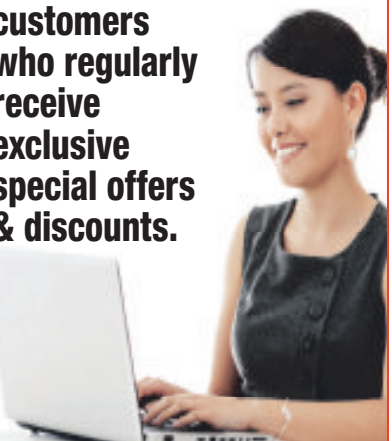
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ClassifiedAds

Vitara offers strong option in compact crossover sector

Small SUV-style 'Juke-genre' Crossover models are all the rage just at present. Every mainstream brand, it seems, must have one. Here's Suzuki's offering for customers in this sector, the surprisingly light, lithe and fashionable Vitara.

The Vitara is the kind of youthful, dynamic-looking product that buyers of compact Crossover models seem to want. On paper, it certainly seems to tick all the 'Juke-genre' boxes, with lifestyle looks, trendy cabin technology and superministandards of efficiency. It even claims to be a rewarding steer on twisty tarmac, especially with the 1.4-litre BOOSTERJET 1.4-litre petrol turbo engine that the Japanese brand has added since this car was originally launched. That really would make it different from small Suzuki SUVs of the past. There are familiar touches though: value pricing, high specifications and a 4WD option – something actually relatively unusual in this segment.

The performance-orientated 1.4-litre petrol turbo engine is one of Suzuki's newest units and gives this car a reasonable turn of speed, enabling it to make 62mph in 10.2s en route to 124mph. Otherwise, the mechanicals aren't anything too surprising, shared as they are with the existing SX-4 S-Cross. That means buyers get to choose between either a 1.6-litre petrol engine or a much preferable Fiat-sourced 118bhp 1.6 diesel, both being offered in front or four-wheel drive



It is quite an assured piece of design work

guises. The petrol engine is fitted with a five-speed manual gearbox as standard with an optional CVT transmission also offered. Go diesel and you get a six-speed manual 'box. The short overhangs will help with off-roading but the 185mm ground clearance isn't that generous.

The ALLGRIP four-wheel-drive system is standard with the 1.4-litre petrol turbo and optional with the 1.6-litre variants.

With tight proportions and a front end that has more than a hint of current Land Rover design about it, the Vitara is quite an assured piece of design work. There's also a blacked-out floating glasshouse, heavily sculpted flanks and a very neat taillamp finish. Buyers can also specify a rugged package which adds front and rear skidplates as well as additional body side mouldings.

Suzuki cabins have long been the marque's weak link but this Vitara shows the company pulling its socks up a bit. Okay, so the idea of body-coloured metal across the dash isn't a new one (many of you will recall the Fiat Coupe mining that trend way back in '93) but Suzuki also offers chrome around the gearlever and door trims, plus an analogue clock. It's by no means a large vehicle, breaking the tape at just over four metres long, but still features a features a 375-litre boot.

Prices start at around £14,000 for the entry-level 1.6-litre petrol, but you'll need a £20,000 budget for the petrol ALLGRIP 4WD version. 1.6 DDiS diesel model pricing starts at around £17,000. For the 1.4-litre petrol turbo ALLGRIP model, you'll need around £21,000. All variants get seven airbags, 16-inch alloy wheels, a DAB Radio with USB and Bluetooth connectivity, cruise control with a speed limiter, auto air conditioning, front and rear electric windows and projector headlamps. The SZ-T trim adds 17-inch alloy wheels, rear privacy glass, Smartphone link audio and a navigation system. Moving up to SZ5 adds LED Projector headlights, 17-inch polished alloy wheels, suede seat fabric, keyless entry with start button, Adaptive Cruise Control, Radar Brake Support and a Panoramic sunroof.

There's a range of personalisation options and two key extra-cost packages. The 'Urban' package consists of fog lamp bezels (chrome-plated), body-side mouldings, and a roof spoiler. The 'Rugged' package delivers front and rear skid plates, fog lamp bezels, body-side mouldings and loading edge protection.



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Skoda to the four . . . award-winners

By James Parker

ŠKODA's remarkable awards collection has been added to once again with no fewer than four new titles. The Citigo, Fabia, Yeti and Superb have all been named as the best in class by CarBuyer – one of the UK's most respected online motoring websites.

Unlike many industry awards, CarBuyer avoids the jargon that comes with traditional sectors and categories, concentrating instead on the kind of criteria that real-world motorists use when buying a car.

The Citigo was named Best First Car for the second year running, confirming its status as one of the most affordable and easy to drive small cars in the business.

Value

Commenting on the award, CarBuyer editor Stuart Milne said: "With prices starting at less than £8,300 and a range of stunning finance deals, it's great value to buy, and with 68.9mpg fuel economy possible and insurance groups as low as 1E, its running costs are among the lowest in the business."

Not to be outdone by its smaller sibling, the Fabia saw off strong competition to be named Best Small Car. The CarBuyer judges praised the supermini's refinement and high equipment levels, and commended its wide range of engine options.

"Practicality, value for money and reliability are essential ingredients for today's small-car buyer, and with those factors in mind, you simply can't do better than the Skoda Fabia. Interior space is remarkable, with a 330-litre



Best First Car for the second year running, Citigo



Skoda Fabia was named Best Small Car

boot and plenty of head and legroom for four or five passengers" commented Stuart Milne.

In what was Škoda's most successful CarBuyer Awards to date, the Yeti was also honoured – driving off with the 'Best Car for Under £150 a Month' title.

Explaining the decision, said: "The Škoda Yeti is one of our favourite small SUVs thanks

to its superb build quality, efficient engines and engaging driving experience.

Remarkable

"So it's all the more remarkable that you can park a Yeti outside your house for less than £150 a month on a Personal Contract Purchase (PCP)."



Taking Best Car for Under £150 a Month was the Yeti

Completing remarkable haul of titles, the Škoda's Superb Estate was named Best Estate Car. The judges praised the Superb's exceptional 660 litre boot and welcomed the attention to detail that marks the estate model out from its sector competitors.

Stuart Milne added: "The best estate cars offer more than just plenty of space for your

luggage. They provide well thought-out solutions to all kinds of everyday problems. No car does this better than the Superb Estate.

"Umbrellas in the doors and grippy cup-holders that allow you to unscrew bottles one-handed all contribute to making this such a brilliant car."

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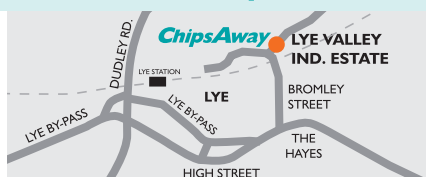
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BMW XDrive could keep you safe



A BMW car featuring XDrive technology might be for you

With the winter months practically here, you might be noticing that the roads are getting a little bit more dicey. Routes can quickly become wet, slippery and tricky to navigate, especially in rural areas.

Two-wheel-drive cars can often struggle here – especially those with the power sent to just the rear wheels – which is why many manufacturers offer four-wheel-drive versions of their most popular models.

One such car maker is BMW, which applies four-wheel-drive technology to many of the cars in its range. It calls this system XDrive.

BMW introduced its first all-wheel drive model in 1985, with the 325i 'Allrad'. This utilised visco locks, which could create a strong connection between the front and rear wheels.

It did this by monitoring which wheel slipped and which gripped, and adjusting the power sent to each one accordingly. This was the first time that the German car maker had thought to implement an all-wheel-drive system into a standard road car body, and the idea stuck.

Fast forward to 2016, and BMW is now using an all-wheel-drive system that is at the very cutting edge of technology, giving people a car that is usable in all weathers – not just in the dry.

XDrive is a system that sends power to all four wheels constantly. This is split as 40 per cent of the drive going to the front wheels, with the remainder put through the rears.

However, things don't stop there. An on-board computer constantly monitors each wheel for levels of grip and can adjust the power being sent to them accordingly.

What does that mean? Well, for example, if you hit a patch of wet leaves on the inside of a left-hand bend, the car's system can send more of the engine's drive to the outside wheels, keeping you stable throughout the corner. It's an ideal solution to winter roads, which can often upset a two-wheel-drive car. And should snow fall, there's a little more traction to be had here, too.

Does this have an effect on economy?

Yes, but not as much as you'd think. For instance, a standard 320d will achieve around 65mpg combined.

For the XDrive model you'll see around a 10mpg penalty, which isn't bad considering the extra capability it affords you. Throughout the range, you won't see too much of a difference between economy figures – in either petrol or diesel models.

If you're considering the purchase of a four-wheel-drive, but aren't sure about the size increase that comes with an SUV, then a BMW car featuring XDrive technology might be for you.

It allows you to keep the usable size and shape of a standard car, while having greater levels of capability on difficult terrain and in different conditions.

Make no mistake however, these cars aren't suited to heavy off-roading, having been designed specifically for the road.



Cannock's Graham Machin, Clubman of the Year, receives his award from league president John Priest



Umpire of the Year Trevor Cotton collects his award from John Priest at the Banks's Stadium



Junior Performance winner Chris Becker with John Priest

Milford haul bowls over Staffs Clubs cricket rivals

MILFORD HALL walked off with an impressive haul of silverware at the Staffs Clubs' awards night.

The league brought the curtain down on another successful summer at Walsall Football Club's Banks's Stadium with former England, Leicestershire and Kent wicketkeeper Paul Nixon the guest of honour, entertaining the 100-plus audience with tales from his 23-year playing career.

League secretary Kevin Herbert said: "Paul was very good. He spoke for about 40 minutes about his playing days and then did a lengthy question and answer session with the audience."

"He signed a load of books throughout the evening and never refused a photograph or an autograph. He was very amenable."

"It was a very good and enjoyable evening and a great way to end a successful season."

Milford had most to celebrate after a fine summer that saw them clinch promotion to the Birmingham League after winning the Premier Division title.

Crowned

They also doubled up by lifting the first team Knockout Cup while the second team were crowned Premier A champions. For good measure talented youngster Chris Becker picked up the Junior Performance of the Year award.

Among the other accolades that were dished out, Cannock stalwart Graham Machin was a worthy winner of the Clubman of the Year award while Trevor Cotton was Umpire of the Year.

The night capped an impressive season for the league that saw the introduction of a new playing format in the top three divisions with 11 games played under the old system that included the possibility of

SPORTING FEATURE

By Nick Elwell

"It was a very good and enjoyable evening and a great way to end a successful season."

a draw and 11 played on a straight win or lose basis with restrictions on the number of overs a player could bowl.

"The switch in playing format was well received by the clubs," said Herbert. "It was obviously new to the captains and teams but the feedback we have received has been very good."

"You obviously need a minimum of five bowlers in the win or lose format. And I think you end up with the strongest team coming out on top as opposed to the team with the strongest overseas player."

"The plan was for the format to run for two years and it will be reviewed over the winter."

"We are slightly concerned at the number of conceded games, especially in the lower divisions, but all in all it was a successful season."

"I think Milford were worthy winners in the end and as a league we wish them all the best for next season in the Birmingham League," added Herbert.

Springvale and Rugeley will be playing top flight cricket next season after gaining promotion from Division One with just one side, Bloxwich, relegated due to the fact no Staffordshire sides came down from Division Three of the Birmingham League. Elford are

joining the league next season while Springvale are entering a third team and Wightwick will a fourth.

Staffs Clubs roll of honour:

Premier Division: Winners Milford Hall; runners-up Beacon.

Premier A: Winners Milford Hall; runners-up Aldridge.

Division 1: Winners Springvale; runners-up Rugeley.

Division 2: Winners HGBU; runners-up Old Wulfs.

Division 3: Winners Wolverhampton; runners-up Burntwood St Matthews.

Division 4: Winners Wombourne; runners-up Rushall.

Division 5: Winners Wightwick & Finchfield; runners-up Beacon.

Batting - Premier Division: Brian Barnard (Cannock) 1044 runs. Premier A: Shafqat Hussain (Aldridge) 671. Division 1: Stuart Jones (Coseley) 849. Division 2: Mohammed Ajmal (HGBU) 734. Division 3: Hassan Touqueer (Wolv) 758. Division 4: Tim Davis (Milford Hall) 588. Division 5: Michael Jones (W+F) 519.

Bowling - Premier Division: Ejaz Nawaz (Milford Hall) 51 wickets. Premier A: Matthew Richards (Penn) 32. Division 1: Mohammed Sultan (Rugeley) 57. Division 2: Ben Hallam (OWT) 51. Division 3: Joey Brew (Wolv) 42. Division 4: Ryan Dewsbury (Wightwick & Finchfield) 46. Division 5: Neil Walker (Beacon) 40.

Clubman of the Year: Graham Machin (Cannock CC).

Performance of the Year: Muhammad Sultan (Rugeley).

Junior Performance of the Year: Chris Becker (Milford Hall).

Umpire of the Year: Trevor Cotton.

Knockout Cup - First team: Winners Milford Hall; runners-up Cannock.

Second team: Pelsall; runners-up Penn.

Third team: Wednesbury; runners-up Burntwood St Matthews.



Rugeley's Muhammad Sultan is presented with his Performance of the Year award



Paul Nixon, Milford Hall skipper Harry Flowers and Alex Williams, director of league sponsors Cicada Sports



Loan man ends Yeltz losing streak

Halesowen Town 1 Grantham Town 1
HALESOWEN ended their losing streak against in-form Grantham, although a goal in each half from corner kicks left the mid-table clash in the Evo-Stik League Premier Division all square.

Home goalkeeper John Bateman kept out two early long-range free-kicks from Stefan Galinski and Felipe Barcelos on his home debut and also prevented Lee Shaw heading home from the rebound.

Yeltz took the lead after Grantham failed to clear a 20th-minute corner, allowing on-loan Kennedy Digie to squeeze his first Halesowen goal through a crowd of defenders.

But Grantham immediately pressed forward with Lee Shaw scooping just wide and Bateman blocking from Barcelo.

Grantham's half-time team-talk worked wonders and an equaliser soon followed when Galinski headed on for Barcelos to turn and touch home from a 49th-minute corner.

With a good pace to the game, Harry Clifton surged forward to strike a fierce shot off the outside of the Yeltz post in the 53rd minute and Barcelo brought another good save from Bateman.

Halesowen's Tristian Dunkley continued to threaten on his debut when his clever backheel fell just wide after an hour and his 71st-minute header was then saved by Kieran Preston.

But the Gingerbreads looked the more likely to claim any late winner with Danny Meadows heading just over the bar deep in stoppage time.

Ayres rocks up to join the Heathens for next season

CRADLEY have handed fans the signing they wanted with popular showman Danny Ayres joining the club.

Ayres makes the switch from Kent and joins skipper Tom Perry and Joe Lawlor in the Heathens side.

He is a massive favourite with supporters after some guest appearances – and after he starred against Eastbourne last season a Facebook group was created urging the management to bring him to the Black Country. Now a deal has been done and the rider himself is thrilled with the move despite leaving Kent with a heavy heart.

He said: "I'm sorry to be leaving Kent but the opportunity to join Cradley was one I couldn't turn down in what is another exciting chapter in my career."

"I'm so delighted to be joining the Heathens and riding in front of what are in my opinion a great set of fans. The welcome they gave me when I rode for them as a guest against Eastbourne last season will live long in the memory."

"I'm working hard to get myself fit after having the surgery on the shoulder but come the opening meeting I will be ready to score some points for the team."

Heathens have also launched season ticket sales with discounted rates until January 31. Prices are £130 adults, £110 concessions, £45 juniors 13-18 and £15 children. Racenight prices are £12 adults, £10 concessions, £5 juniors 13-18 and £2 children.

Brilliant Briggs brings a classic victory

Derby 32 Old Halesonians 37
OLD HALESONIANS leapfrogged Derby into sixth place in a classic battle which saw the lead change hands eight times. The game was all square at 32 apiece with three minutes left when full-back Ian Briggs touched down to settle the contest for the visitors.

From the kick-off, Hales hooker Sam Jones collected and drove into the opposition. Scrum-half Chris Danks linked with fly-half Chris Hooper and winger Jay Reid scored wide out.

Two high tackles saw Derby slot a brace of penalties to lead 6-5, Hooper landed a kick of his own but another infringement saw the home side slot

the kick between the posts for 9-8. Hales scored a classic sucker-punch try. Joe Collingham secured loose ball and fed Hooper who noticed winger Luke Smith in space. He kicked over the defence and Smith beat his opposite man to the ball for a try and a 13-9 lead.

From the restart another penalty saw Derby close the gap to a single point at the break. Collingham was yellow-carded in the second half and Derby landed yet another penalty to go 15-13 up. Hales responded with a fine try, second rows Loz Breece and Neil Mason prompting a move which ended with Smith rounding his man and sending Hooper over.

Derby promptly scored a pair of converted tries to go 11 points clear at 29-18. But Hooper collected his own kick ahead and freed Smith to score, the former adding the extras. Another Derby penalty made it 32-25, but now the Hales scrumage was dominant and after three set-pieces their hard work paid off with a penalty try. Hooper converting to level it 32-32. Hales landed the killer blow when Briggs chipped and chased, a defender mishandled and the full-back dived over to score. Hooper converted.

Meanwhile, Old Halesonians Under-16s made is seven wins from eight with a hard-earned 26-12 victory over their Malvern counterparts.

IT'S DYNAMITE FROM DUGGAN

STOURBRIDGE'S FA Cup dream reached new heights with victory over League One Northampton Town.

Jack Duggan's winner, four minutes from time, sent the Glassboys through to the third round for the first time.

It was an achievement, a genuine giant-killing, worthy of the coverage from live television which instead went elsewhere, yet no less precious to Gary Hackett and his team.

Plymouth, Kidderminster, Dover, Whitehawk – all pale in comparison to this triumph, the greatest yet of a club whose love affair with the world's oldest cup competition shows no sign of ending soon, *writes Matt Maher*.

Stour were worthy winners against a team four divisions above. They were the team who asked the most questions, with Northampton keeper David Cornell having already twice denied Dan Scarr before Duggan bagged the most emphatic of winners, when a replay looked likely.

The Glassboys now head to League Two Wycombe for the third round, another tie which will not get TV coverage. On this evidence, however, you could not discount a trip to the fourth round and more history.

Respect

Hackett made just one change to the team which beat Ashton United 2-0 in the league on Saturday, Kayleden Brown coming in for the cup-tied Jordan Archer. It meant Duggan kept his place in the heart of defence, alongside Scarr.

Northampton boss Rob Page meanwhile paid Stour maximum respect, naming an unchanged team from the one which snapped a four-game losing streak in League One with a 3-2 victory at Port Vale last weekend.

If there had been concern some air may have been left out of the fixture by the postponement and subsequent third round draw, you would never have guessed it. Certainly not from the noise which could be heard from the Shed End, or the pace with which the Glassboys came out of the blocks, skipper Tom Tonks' sliding challenge on Matt Taylor summing up the energy of the early minutes.

The hosts might have led on 10 minutes had Chris Lait been able to direct his shot the right



Dynamo Duggan – Jack Duggan celebrates his late goal which made history for the Glassboys

side of the post, following a neat exchange with Luke Benbow.

It was fast-paced stuff, with both teams happy to ask questions and test the defensive mettle of the other by hitting long balls over the top.

A well-worked free-kick on the half-hour-mark brought the first effort on target with Cornell forced to tip over Scarr's powerful header. From the corner, Duggan momentarily escaped at the far post, with only the intervention of a defender preventing his header from creeping in.

Northampton's attacking efforts amounted to an Aaron Phillips shot which cleared the bar by several yards, before the visitors fired warning of their quality just seconds before half-time when Paul Anderson slammed a shot inches wide from

25 yards out. Stour almost went ahead in bizarre fashion when Cornell misjudged the bounce from a Tonks long-throw and ended up tipping the ball on to the bar, the rebound falling just wide of Lait.

Moments later the keeper was on sounder footing as he again denied Scarr, tipping over the defender's header from a Tonks cross.

A good block was needed to stop Lewin Nyantanga forcing home at close range, before Jak McCourt drilled an effort a foot over the Stour bar. Then, with just four minutes left, Stour went ahead. Northampton again failed to deal with a free-kick into the box and the ball fell to Duggan, unmarked at the far post, who slammed the ball left-footed into the net. On to Wycombe.

Runners in test against top athletes

THERE was a last chance for athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club to post some fast times for the year at the weekend, as one of the fastest races on the calendar took place at the Telford 10k.

Although the course appears to be a testing one, the race always attracts a stellar field of national and international class athletes and it is the high quality that often drags runners round to faster times than they believed possible. At least, that is, in the elite race. DK were certainly rubbing shoulders with the best with the top 18 finishers all clocking times under 30 minutes and including Olympic, World, European and Commonwealth Games representatives as well as former national champions. Those in the first race of the day certainly had their work cut out to finish amongst them.

Darren Bishop was first home in a lightning quick time of 37.08 to take 220th place, Dave Norman recorded his fastest time for many years clocking 37.36 in 233rd, Mark Homer ducked under the sub 40 benchmark in 39.40 to take 287th and second in his age group. Mark Judge finished in 41.49 in 338th place.

In the mass race, for those likely to finish in over 40 minutes, Tahir Yasin came home in 44.28, Bob Jones finished in 47.40 in 519th place, Alison Whitehouse was 705th in 55.21, Tony Noke finished in 57.39 in 802nd, Keith Whitehouse continued his habit of running round in company finishing in 59.12 in 802nd. Gina Collins was 803rd in 59.13 and Cilla Harding 804th in 59.15. Preston Grundy finished in 851st in 1.01.55, Sally Clewes in 1.02.31 for 882nd, Lisa Perkins ran 1.02.53 for 904th, Helen Noke finished in 1.07.50 in 963rd and Nicola Wilkinson finished in 1.12.09 in 989th.

A group of hoops travelled towards the Welsh borders to take part in the Mortimer Forest race near Ludlow. It is a tough, hilly event over some difficult terrain covering the best part of nine miles. Richard Bate finished in 23rd place in 71.04, Mick Quane finished in 45th in 76.09, Andy Weaver in 147th in 87.56, Andy Morrison in 22nd in 98.12, and Carol Fisher in 267th in 104.53. Sally McConville was the last of the hoops home in 276th in 106.17.

And finally a sole runner from DKRC took part in the Sneyd Christmas Pudding 10 where runners not only received a medal for finishing the 10 miles race but were also presented with the traditional festive dessert. Darren Judge was the first from the club to have the chance to tuck into his pudding finishing in 280th place in 1.42.22.

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